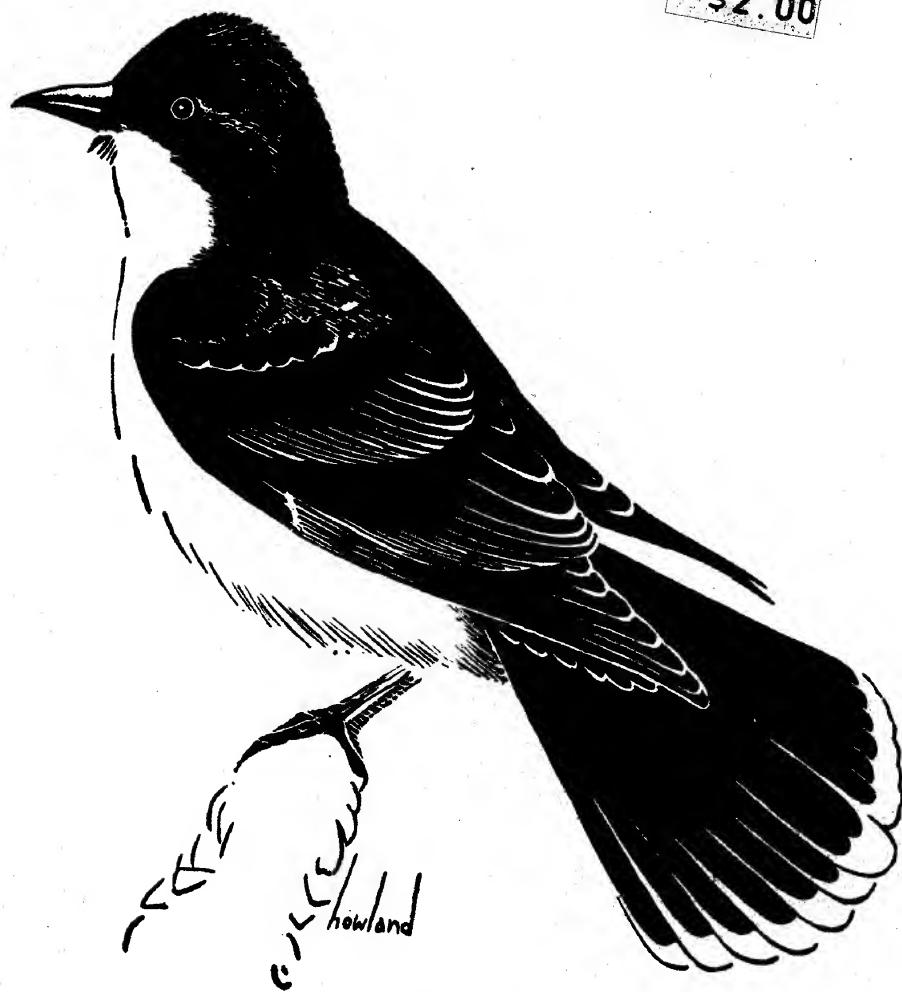


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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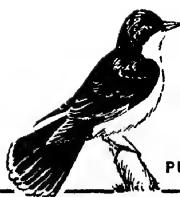
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## CONTENTS

Wintering Woodpeckers in an Urban Environment . . . Dorothy J. McMichael and David S. Wilcove	3
Tiffet Farm Nature Preserve Winter Bird Population Study . . . . . Marcy Foster	11
The 1976 Federation Statewide Spring Migration Survey . . . . . Cheryl Boise	16
Letter to the Editors . . . . .	18
Minutes of the 29th Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. . . .	19
Notes and Observations	
Northern Fulmar grounded on Long Island . . . . . Dennis Puleston	25
A possible New York State Dickcissel breeding colony . . . . . Roy S. Slack and Cathie A. Baumgartner	26
White-eyed Vireo in Essex County. . . . . Geoffrey Carleton	28
Fox preys on nocturnal migrants. . . . . Peter Polshiek	28
Highlights of the Fall Season . . . . . Robert W. Smart	29
Regional Reports . . . . .	32

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Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on  
stripped tree

—Photo by David Wilcove

# WINTERING WOODPECKERS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

DOROTHY J. McMICHAEL and DAVID S. WILCOVE

## INTRODUCTION

The discovery of a male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) by David Freeland on December 21, 1975, in an urban residential area of Buffalo prompted the authors to explore the area. Three weeks of searching gradually revealed more than two dozen diseased elm trees (principally *Ulmus americana* L.) where woodpeckers were stripping off the outer bark and exposing the lighter, somewhat orange inner bark. The numbers of woodpeckers in this area seemed especially high. By watching these trees carefully, the authors found the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker doing its share of vigorous stripping (a typical habit), sometimes alone, sometimes in the company of Downy Woodpeckers (*P. pubescens*) and Hairy Woodpeckers (*P. villosus*). The intensity of the stripping activity and the concentrations of woodpeckers on these stripped trees raised questions that only a population study might answer. A study area, which included the stripped trees, was laid out; the trees were mapped and numbered, and weekly woodpecker counts were initiated.

## THE STUDY AREA

The study area lies immediately north of Delaware Park in Buffalo on either side of Delaware Avenue and includes 153.2 acres (62 hectares) of residential neighborhood. The density of housing varies; for example, the northern section 40.8 acres (16.5 hectares) contains 151 houses with small yards; the southern portion near the park 61.3 acres (24.8 hectares) contains 98 houses with spacious, well-planted grounds. About 80 meters north of Delaware Park is the heart of the study area, the intersection of Meadow Road and Middlesex Avenue where there is a wooded lot on the northwest corner and an evergreen garden on the southeast corner. In this area, the authors saw the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on many occasions. The corner was the center of intense woodpecker activity during January and early February.

In order to learn the relative abundance of various tree types in the entire study area, a four kilometer loop was plotted. Along this loop, trees which stand on the grass strips between the sidewalks and

the street, or are located in front yards, were counted. 45% of the trees counted were elms (*Ulmus spp.*) of which 18.5% were marked for removal because of Dutch elm disease. A total of 30 elms (only 8.5%) were stripped by the woodpeckers, which had removed at least 20% of the bark on the limbs of each tree. The remaining 55% of all trees counted included the following groups, in descending order of abundance: spruces (*Picea spp.*), oaks (*Quercus spp.*), maples (*Acer spp.*), poplars (*Populus spp.*), pines (*Pinus spp.*), ashes (*Fraxinus spp.*), hemlocks (*Tsuga spp.*), birches (*Betula spp.*), beeches (*Fagus spp.*), willows (*Salix spp.*), and sycamores (*Platanus spp.*).

Most of the stripped trees were *Ulmus americanus* L., all of which were infected with disease. Pieces of bark from these trees showed egg canals and channeling patterns of the lesser European elm bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus* Marsh.), principal vector of the Dutch elm fungus (*Ceratocystis ulmi* Buisman) (Boyce, 1961). The fungus is introduced into healthy elms by the adult beetles which feed in twig crotches. The beetles, which concentrate their egg-laying in a few trees rather than infesting a great many, bore galleries parallel to the grain of the wood and lay their eggs along the sides. The larvae tunnel perpendicularly to the egg galleries forming the characteristic engraved pattern found in infected bark. The larvae overwinter and then pupate in spring at the end of the larvae tunnels. In May they emerge through small holes in the bark (Anderson, 1960). The authors were able to collect both larvae and adult beetles which were preserved for reference.

Others have noted that woodpeckers sometimes produce spectacular evidence of their debarking activity and are regarded as effective in keeping boring beetles under control (Anderson, 1960). Analysis of woodpecker stomachs (Eaton, 1914), has shown that larvae of woodboring beetles make up the diet of the three species of woodpeckers as follows: Downy, 14%; Hairy, 31%; Black-backed Three-toed, 64%. It must be noted that these figures were obtained prior to the spread of the Dutch elm disease and the beetles that carry the fungus.

Since 1951 the city of Buffalo has controlled the Dutch elm disease by the prompt removal of diseased trees which are concentration points for the elm bark beetle. However, because of extensive cutbacks in funds, this program has been discontinued, and some 3,280 trees marked for removal in 1974-1975 are still standing. Of

the 30 elms stripped by woodpeckers in the study area, only five, on private property, were not marked by the city. All of these stripped trees were apparently heavily infested by bark beetles and were a good food supply for the woodpeckers. Examination of the trees by Arthur B. Budington, forest pathologist, revealed no correlation between the species of elm, its size or location, and its desirability to the woodpeckers, despite the fact that the birds chose only 8.5% of the elms on which to concentrate their feeding activities.

### METHODS

Woodpecker counts were done on weekends at various times of day depending on weather and convenience. Occasionally two counts were made on the same weekend, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, to see if the time of day was significant. When temperatures were well below freezing, the birds appeared to work rapidly from dawn to dusk; in milder temperatures their activity was more random and apparently independent of the time of day. During the count the observers walked the four kilometer loop, noting the number of woodpeckers heard and seen, and noting the numbers of the stripped trees on which the birds were feeding. A record of weather conditions during the counts was kept. Since the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker showed up on only seven of the sixteen counts, this species has been omitted from all graphs and tables except those showing total number of woodpeckers per count day.

To compare number of woodpeckers in the study area with that of other parts of the city, two control areas (whose total area was slightly less than that of the study area) were chosen representing a residential and park-like environment similar to that of the study area but containing a greater diversity of tree species, with a much lower percentage of elms. The authors found only 0 to 3 woodpeckers in the control areas on any one count day.

### RESULTS

The graph in Figure One summarizes the results of the woodpecker counts made in the study area. Maximum counts of Hairy Woodpeckers were obtained on 24 January and 13 February. For the Downy Woodpecker the highest tally came on 22 February. The highest total of all woodpecker species was on 24 January. Woodpecker numbers fluctuated from count to count. Note, however, the comparatively high total counts obtained on 24 January, 22 Febru-

FIGURE 1  
STUDY PERIOD DATA

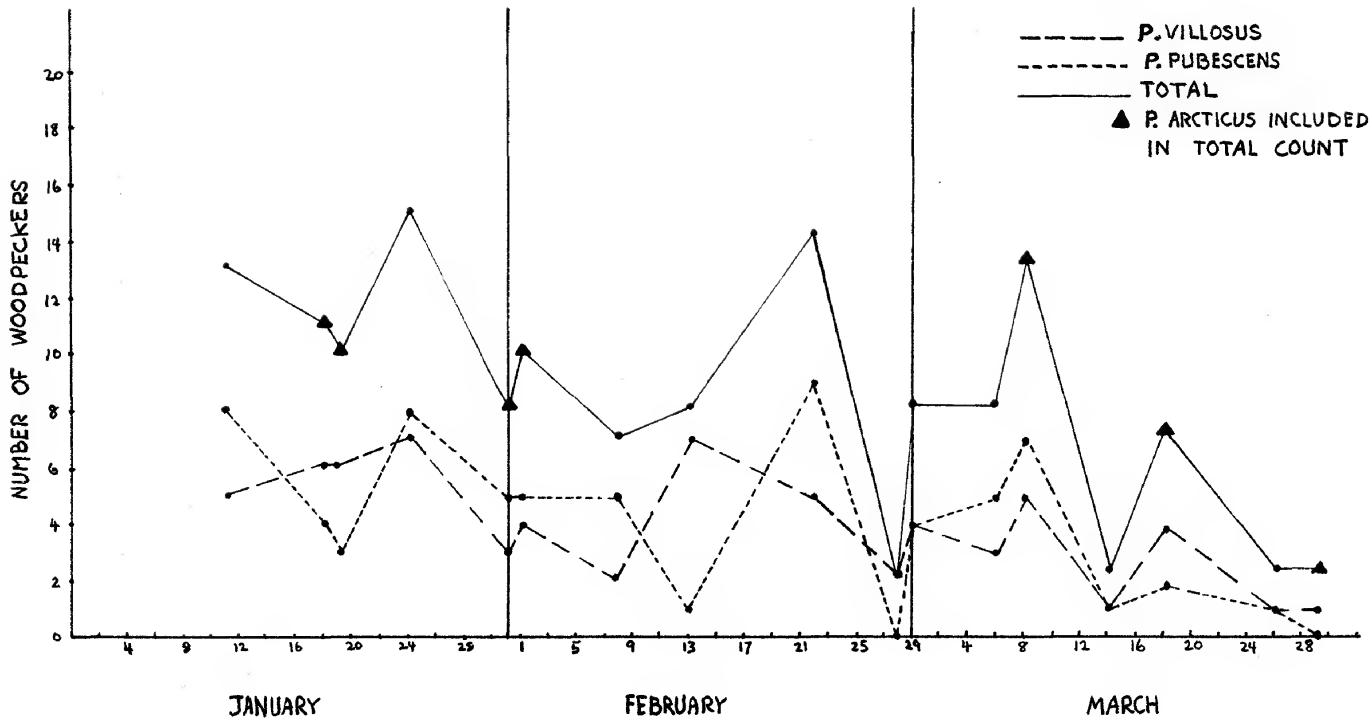


FIGURE 2

A = % OF ALL WOODPECKERS ON STRIPPED TREES  
 B = % OF FEEDING WOODPECKERS ON STRIPPED TREES  
 C = % OF FEEDING WOODPECKERS ON ELMS

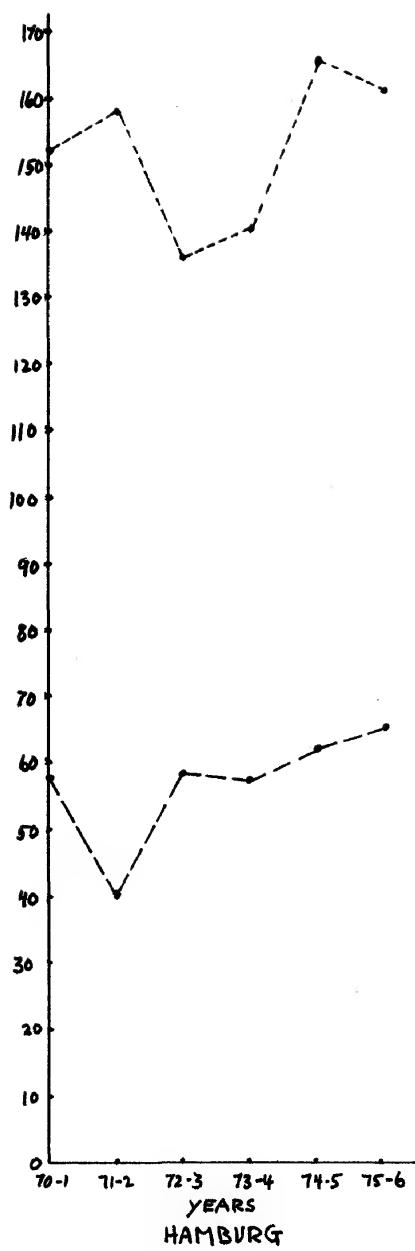
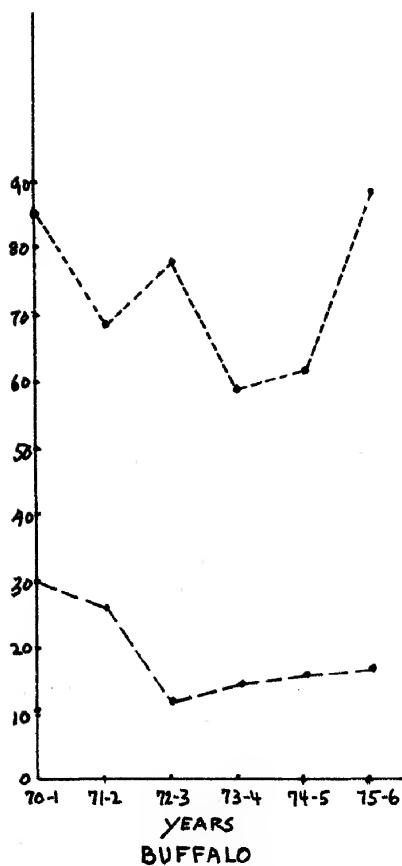
DATE	A	B	C
1-11	92	92	100
1-17	91	91	91
1-18	90	90	100
1-24	67	91	91
1-31	25	40	80
2-1	100	100	100
2-8	86	100	100
2-13	87	100	100
2-22	80	85	100
2-28	0	0	100
2-29	25	25	87
3-6	75	75	100
3-8	77	63	100
3-14	100	100	100
3-18	43	43	100
3-26	0	0	50
3-29	0	0	50

ary, and 8 March, indicating that approximately the same number of woodpeckers was present in the study area throughout January, February, and into early March. Following 8 March, the numbers of woodpeckers declined dramatically. The onset of warm spring weather probably triggered the withdrawal of the woodpeckers from the study area. The Hairy Woodpecker does not breed locally, and the Downy does so only uncommonly. The large numbers of both species that occurred in the study area during the study period represented wintering birds. The number fluctuations during January and February can be attributed to temporary weather changes. For example, the high count of 24 January was preceded by a record low temperature on the 23rd. The dramatic decline in numbers on 28 February may well have been caused by the balmy, spring-like weather which moved into the area on 25 February. In short, cold weather may have caused the birds

to concentrate their activities heavily on feeding, whereas in warmer weather they tended to wander more, and were less intense about procuring food.

The chart in Figure Two summarizes the relationship between the woodpeckers and the stripped elms. Column A lists the percentages of all woodpeckers on a given day which were observed on stripped elms. The average of column A is about 59%. Therefore, well over

FIGURE 3  
 ANALYSIS OF CHRISTMAS  
 BIRD COUNT DATA FOR  
 TWO AREAS 1970-1976  
 ——— *P. VILLOSUS*  
 - - - - *P. PUBESCENS*



half of all woodpeckers recorded in this study were concentrated on the stripped elms, which constituted only 8.5% of the total elms.

The figures in column A include a number of woodpeckers that were observed flying over the study area. If the data are restricted to only those woodpeckers observed feeding (*i.e.*, to the exclusion of those flying over), a slightly higher set of percentages results, as shown in column B. On seven of the sixteen days, at least 90% of the feeding woodpeckers were observed on the stripped elms. The average of column B is about 63%.

On 28 February only two woodpeckers were counted in the study area. On 26 March there were only two and one woodpeckers respectively. All three counts are extremely low, and the possibility for discrepancies in the percentages is high; the whereabouts of a single woodpecker on any one of these days would drastically change the results.

Even those woodpeckers which did not feed on the stripped trees preferred elms. In column C are listed the percentages of feeding woodpeckers on elms of any kind. The average of this column is about 90%, suggesting that the larvae of the elm bark beetles make up a large proportion of the birds' diets.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. Woodpecker numbers reflect a concentration rather than an actual population increase. Examination of Christmas Bird Count data over a six year period for Buffalo and Hamburg, New York, reveals no significant increases in woodpecker populations on a regional basis. (Figure 3). Control area data also show no widespread woodpecker population increases.

2. Since the elm bark beetle selects a limited number of host trees in which to lay its eggs, a small number of elms will have proportionately more larvae food. The woodpeckers concentrated on these select trees since they offered the most food.

3. In winter, the elm bark beetle may account for a higher percentage of an *urban* woodpecker's diet than was previously supposed.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank two people for their assistance in this study. Mr. Arthur B. Budington, a forest pathologist and biology teacher at the Nichols School in Buffalo, examined several of the

elms, providing information as to species and conditions; he also proofread the manuscript and offered helpful suggestions. Mr. Edwin S. Drabek, the City Forester for Buffalo, kindly supplied information concerning elm removal and disease control in the city.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Dorothy J. McMichael is a biology teacher at The Nichols School in Buffalo, and a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. David S. Wilcove is also a member of the BOS and is presently a freshman at Yale University, where he will major in either history or ornithology.

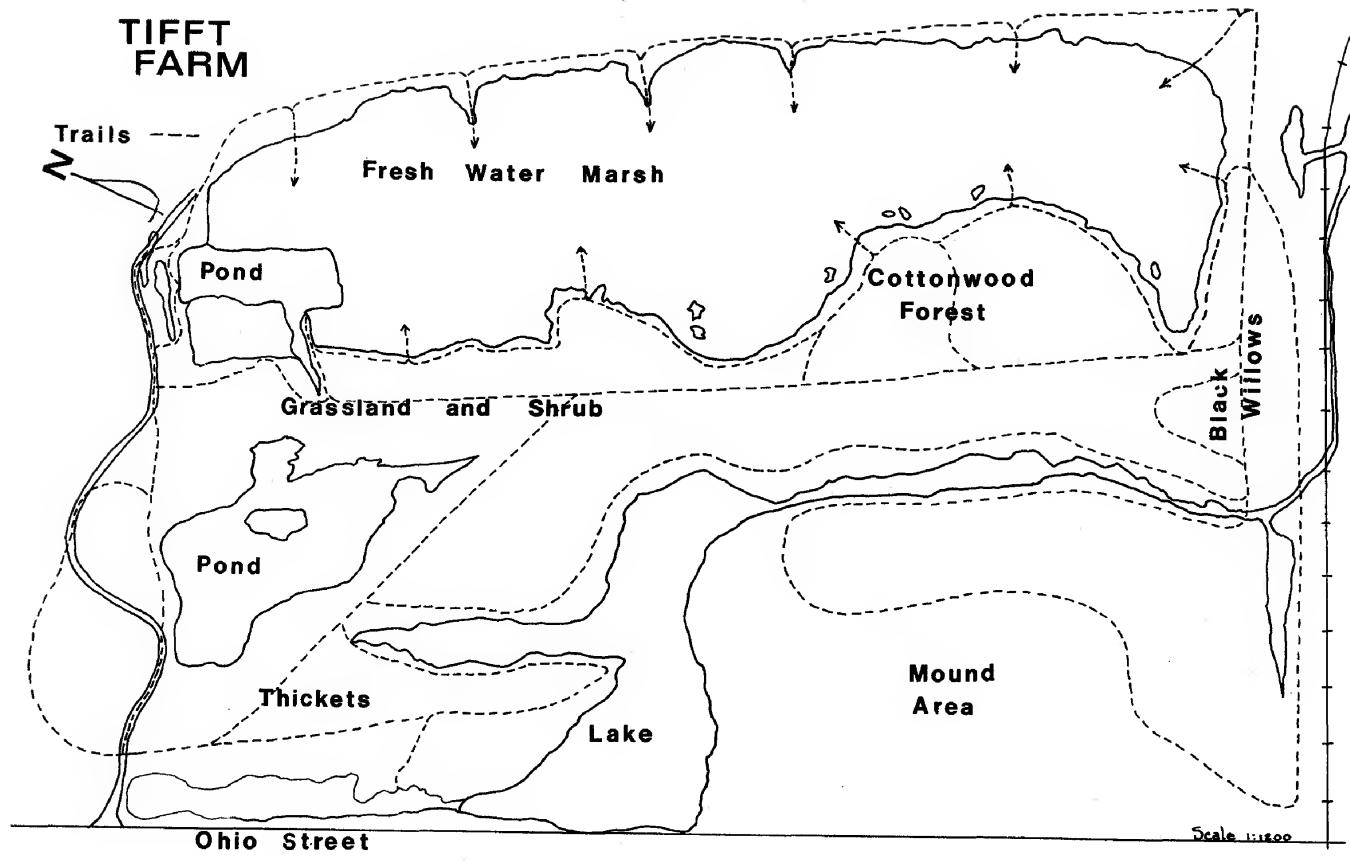
## TIFFT FARM NATURE PRESERVE WINTER BIRD POPULATION STUDY

MARCYA FOSTER

Tifft Farm, Buffalo's unique nature preserve, is located in an industrial area of Buffalo ( $42^{\circ} 51' N$ ;  $78^{\circ} 51' W$ ) within the southern city limits, 2.5 mi. from the downtown business section. It is owned by the City of Buffalo and managed by Tifft Farm, Incorporated, a recently created nonprofit corporation whose nucleus is a group of environmental experts who have voluntarily worked on the project for several years as a Technical Advisory Committee to the City. Tifft Farm is bordered on three sides by railroad tracks and on the fourth by highways into the city. It is approximately 260 acres in area, rectangular in shape, and situated lengthwise on a northwest-southeast axis. A fresh water cattail marsh covers about 75 acres; fifty acres are grassy mounds and the remaining acreage consists of varied habitats of aspen and cottonwood groves and woods, brushy areas, scattered shrubs, large willows in wet sections and three water areas. These are a rectangular opening in the northern end of the cattail marsh, a large pond in the northwestern part of the preserve and a lake and waterway in the west-central and southern portions. The latter are remnants of an old ship basin and canal. The mounds (*ca.* 45 ft. high) are decomposed refuse from the Squaw Island dump, contoured and covered with soil, culminating in four hills of nearly equal height.

Tifft Farm lies very close to Buffalo Harbor along the eastern shore of Lake Erie, on an important spring and fall flyway for migrant land and water birds. Its winter bird population consists of a combination of resident species and some derived from the fall migration. This study was a project of the Research Committee of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Its primary purpose was to lay a good foundation for future investigations of winter bird populations on Tifft Farm. The study was conducted from 1 January through 7 February 1976, which is within the dates suggested by Haven Kolb in The Audubon Winter Bird-Population Study (Audubon Field Notes, June 1965).

Eleven separate surveys were taken by the 16 observers who participated. However, four of these achieved only partial coverage.



Surveys were taken on 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 17, 25, 31 January and 1 and 7 February 1976. All were made between the hours of 0800 and 1400.

The weather during January was cold, the mean temperature for the month being 19.7° F., 4° below normal. There were 8 partly cloudy, 23 cloudy, and no clear days in the month. Precipitation occurred on 19 days. The temperature on Lake Erie on 1 January was 38° F. and the lake was mostly frozen by the middle of the month. Temperature and wind data kept by observers indicated that temperatures never rose above 35° F. on any survey, dipping to 6° F. on 1 February, and that winds were primarily westerly from 0 to 20 miles per hour. There was snow cover on all the surveys, varying from 4 inches deep to drifts of over 3 feet in the marsh.

The total number of species seen at Tifft Farm on count days was 41. The fourteen of these classed as uncommon to rare winter visitors in *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* by Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell (1965) are:

Great Blue Heron	Hermit Thrush
Redhead	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Pine Grosbeak
Common Flicker	Red Crossbill
Brown Creeper	White-throated Sparrow
American Robin	Song Sparrow

Five of the 41 species were only observed flying over the tract. They are:

Mallard	Pine Grosbeak
Canvasback	Red Crossbill
Greater Scaup	

The following species were considered to compose the resident winter population of the tract during the survey period. The number following each species is the average number of individuals seen based on the eleven surveys. The + indicates an average of less than one individual. The maximum number recorded on a single survey follows in parentheses. Species are listed according to decreasing abundance. The species followed by an asterisk probably breed on the site.

Ring-necked Pheasant	74 (139)*	Black Duck	+ (1)*
Black-capped Chickadee	18 ( 24)*	Redhead	+ (1)
House Sparrow	14 ( 21)*	Common Goldeneye	+ (1)
Snow Bunting	12 (110)	Sharp-shinned Hawk	+ (2)
Rock Dove	11 ( 55)	Cooper's Hawk	+ (1)
Tree Sparrow	10 ( 18)	Killdeer	+ (1)*
Downy Woodpecker	5 ( 7)*	Great Black-backed Gull	+ (3)
Dark-eyed Junco	5 ( 12)	Bonaparte's Gull	+ (5)
Common Crow	4 ( 11)*	Mourning Dove	+ (1)
Ring-billed Gull	3 ( 71)	Snowy Owl	+ (1)
Starling	2 ( 6)	Common Flicker	+ (4)*
American Goldfinch	2 ( 10)*	Blue Jay	+ (1)
Song Sparrow	2 ( 6)*	White-breasted Nuthatch	+ (1)
Red-tailed Hawk	1 ( 2)	Brown Creeper	+ (1)
Herring Gull	1 ( 10)	American Robin	+ (1)
Cardinal	1 ( 3)*	Hermit Thrush	+ (1)
White-throated Sparrow	1 ( 3)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	+ (2)
Great Blue Heron	+ ( 1)	Common Redpoll	+ (1)

Single Great Blue Herons were seen twice before 9 January but not thereafter, probably because of ensuing severe winter conditions. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were sighted together on 3 and 31 January. By 17 January the intense cold and snow had been present two weeks. A Common Flicker was seen on this date and four were noted on 25 January flying in the open over fields and foraging in areas of sparse cover, making them easy prey for predators. On the latter date the fresh remains of a Common Flicker were found in the willow thicket at the northern end of the marsh pond.

Large quantities of Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) were available and utilized as a food source during the study. Other foods observers noted being eaten by birds were: Bitter Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*), dormant insects, weed seeds, cattail spikes, and grain spilled from railroad cars.

The accompanying map of Tifft Farm shows habitats and trails. The highest density of birds was in the Black Willow sector (2/acre). Areas of somewhat lower density were along the eastern and western borders of the marsh and along the northern edge of the preserve. The inner parts of the large marsh and the sections between the northwest pond and the lake had few or no birds and the open grassy mounds had none. Ring-necked Pheasants, Dark-eyed Juncos,

and Song Sparrows preferred the cattail marsh habitat; Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, Brown Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets preferred the Black Willows, and Cardinals and White-throated Sparrows, the shrubby areas. Resident birds preferred to concentrate in areas of heavy cover rather than in those which had ample food supplies.

I would like to thank R. F. Andrle for his critical reading of the paper.

*34 Lincoln Ave., Hamburg, N.Y. 14075*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marcya Foster is continuing her population study at Tifft Farm this winter, as well as conducting bird walks for the public at Tifft during January and February. One wonders if there will be any such walks in Buffalo this winter? She is active in the Buffalo Ornithological Society as current program chairman and is the compiler for the Buffalo area Christmas Count for National Audubon. Not the least of her affiliations is with the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

## THE 1976 FEDERATION STATEWIDE SPRING MIGRATION SURVEY

CHERYL BOISE

The third annual statewide spring migration survey of the Federation tallied a new high number of 286 species in the state during the period of May 8-23, 1976 (one pelagic trip on June 12th was included). Thirty-two counts by 24 clubs and 7 individual groups (one club did two counts) made statewide coverage a reality with all ten regions included. Three pelagic trips enhanced the survey considerably this year. Well over 600 persons, in groups from two to 139, participated.

Count totals ranged from 85 to 214 species, with the combined total of the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Rochester Birding Association being the highest. The Buffalo Ornithological Society tallied 200 species. Many groups felt their results were mediocre but thirty new species were added to the three-year cumulative total, bringing it to an even 300 species.

The additions were Northern Fulmar, Sooty, Greater, Cory's and Manx Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-petrel, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Black Scoter, Gray Partridge, American Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Red and Northern Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Skua, Black-legged Kittiwake, Franklin's Gull, Short-eared Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-throated Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Blue Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow and Lapland Longspur.

Despite the diligent efforts of the Adirondack observers of the High Peaks Audubon Society some typically northern species, such as Spruce Grouse, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker and Gray Jay, were missed but the Common Raven and Boreal Chickadee were located. Other disappointing "misses" were Red-necked Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, Gull-billed Tern and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Lingering "winter species" seemed to be the rule this year with several Whistling Swans reported; Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were present in most regions; and late Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Fox Sparrow, Tree Sparrow and Lapland Longspur rounded out the species late in leaving.

A number of interesting points can be found in reviewing the survey as a whole: the Turkey continues its spread; Cattle Egrets now seem well established in the state; Chuck-will's-widow, which was found breeding on Long Island last year, was reported there again this year and on Staten Island—another southern species apparently moving north; the Common Nighthawk appears definitely reduced in numbers in some areas; the Acadian Flycatcher appears to be moving back into upstate New York; the Tufted Titmouse now is found throughout the state except in the Adirondack area; the Carolina Wren seems to be following the Tufted Titmouse in its invasion of the state; the Loggerhead Shrike is in deep trouble—for the third year in a row only one bird was reported for the entire state; the House Finch is now reported from all regions except the Adirondacks and the westernmost part of the state. The changing status of a number of these species is of special interest and this annual survey can make a real contribution by keeping careful counts of them—the ones that are declining, increasing or altering their distribution pattern.

Other interesting observations were reported; a Louisiana Heron found its way to the Rochester area, a Mute Swan was seen near Buffalo and a Fulvous Whistling-Duck appeared near Phoenix. There were no Peregrine Falcons or Merlins but a late Rough-legged Hawk and three Bald Eagles were recorded. A King Rail was located in Fair Haven (Region 5). Several groups indicated that shore birds were abundant which is reflected in the occurrence of an American Golden Plover at Braddock Bay, and a report of a Baird's Sandpiper in the Rochester area (this bird, while carefully described, will have to be considered as hypothetical for the spring survey records because as yet there is no *spring* record of a Baird's Sandpiper for the entire state verified by a specimen or photograph). Franklin's Gulls are now turning up almost yearly in the western part of the state. Caspian Terns were again scarce—reported by only two parties. Seven species of owls were located. The Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Cardinal, all southern species, are now found widely through the state. White-eyed Vireos appeared this year in three upstate regions as well as downstate. Warblers were well represented by 35 species (plus both *Vermivora* hybrids) with a Yellow-throated and Connecticut well documented.

With continued effort such as was demonstrated this year, important and useful information on spring migration in New York can be gathered. All participating clubs and individuals are to be congratulated and thanked. Hopefully in 1977 several more of our member clubs in addition to this year's 24 will participate. The dates for 1977 will be May 7-22.

*Wildlife Research Unit, Irving Building,  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701*

#### LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs:

John Bull (1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, p. 42) mentioned one occurrence of a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) in Oneida Co., from Dec. 15, 1974 to March 15, 1975. Actually, there were two occurrences of this species in central New York, in two successive winters; the listing in the *Supplement* is an amalgam of these. The earlier record was of "a single bird . . . at Vernon [Township] Dec. 15 [1973] to Mar. 3 [1974] (M. Stooks, mob)" (*The Kingbird*, 24: 82, 1974). The second was of a bird "at North Gage [Deerfield Township], Oneida County Dec. 20 (E. VanDresar) thru the period [i.e. to March 31, 1975]; the second bird in two years; though two birds were never seen at once, there may have been two birds involved (M. Stooks)" (*The Kingbird*, 25: 103, 1975).

When I pointed out this error in the *Supplement* to John Bull, he suggested I write a note to *The Kingbird* correcting it.

Margaret S. Rusk  
242 W. Calthrop Avenue  
Syracuse, New York 13205

**MINUTES OF THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.  
October 1st - 2nd, 1976**

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at the Holiday Inn, Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. with the Linnaean Society of New York as host. The meeting was called to order by President Richard A. Sloss at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, October 1, 1976. The roll call was answered by delegates from 23 Member Clubs, constituting a quorum for the transaction of business. Delegates from 5 additional clubs arrived later. William Vaughan served as parliamentarian.

The delegates unanimously approved dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the 1975 Annual Meeting, as they had appeared in outline in *New York Birders*, January, 1976 issue. It was voted that the minutes of the 1976 Council of Delegates be published concisely in *The Kingbird* in order to have a more permanent record.

Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairperson, presented the report of the Membership Committee. Membership was at an all time high with the following breakdown:

Annual Membership	-	348	Student Membership	-	33
Family Membership	-	55	Life Membership	-	45
Supporting Membership	-	18	Partial Life Membership	-	5

Myra Hemmerick stated that inasmuch as Family Memberships actually represented at least 2 members the total individual members came to a minimum of 559. Special recognition was paid to Gordon Meade and Dick Sloss who contributed to the growth of membership—Gordon Meade being responsible for individual membership drives among some of the Member Clubs, and Dick Sloss for his efforts in producing a new membership brochure. It was announced that the Cattaraugus County Bird Club had applied for membership in the Federation. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Cattaraugus County Bird Club was elected to membership, bringing the total number of Member Clubs in the Federation to 41.

The Treasurer, Stephen Dempsey, presented his reports for the calendar year 1975 as follows:

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/31/75 AND FOR THE THEN ENDED YEAR**

**Cash on Hand 12/31/74**

Checking Account	\$ 1,489.59
Savings Accounts	8,937.45
Net Gain in 1975	342.01
Adjustment*	<u>(54.11)</u>
	<b>\$10,714.94</b>

**Cash on Hand 12/31/75**

Checking Account	\$ 1,665.16
Savings Accounts	<u>9,049.78</u>
	<b>\$10,714.94</b>

**Income, 1975**

Dues Payments	\$ 5.00
Annual - 1974 - 1 Renewal	\$ 5.00

Annual - 1974 - 2 New	\$ 10.00	
1975 - 295 Renewal	2,360.00	
1975 - 40 New	311.00	
1976 - 1 Renewal	8.00	
1976 - 9 New	<u>72.00</u>	\$2,766.00
Family - 1975 - 31 Renewal	\$ 310.00	
1975 - 8 New	<u>80.00</u>	\$ 390.00
Supporting - 1975 - 14 Renewal		210.00
Student - 1975 - 7 Renewal	\$ 21.00	
1975 - 8 New	24.00	
1976 - 1 New	<u>3.00</u>	48.00
Life - 1975 - 1 Complete	\$ 150.00	
1975 - 5 Partial	<u>137.50</u>	\$ 287.50
Club - 1975 - 37 Renewal	\$ 1,245.95	
1975 - 1 New	<u>5.10</u>	\$1,251.05
Subscriptions - 1974 - 2	\$ 12.00	
1975 - 26	156.00	
1976 - 32	<u>288.00</u>	\$ 456.00
Back Issues of <i>The Kingbird</i>		318.25
Indexes of <i>The Kingbird</i>		8.00
Contribution		14.00
Reimbursement from Hawk Nesting Fund		30.00
Sale of Feeders		159.75
Pelagic Trip - 6/7/75	\$ 900.00	
10/4/75	<u>1,020.00</u>	1,920.00
Interest on Savings Account (Accrued)		<u>549.25</u>
		\$8,407.80
Expenses, 1975		
<i>The Kingbird</i>	\$4,355.47	
Membership	240.11	
Conservation	25.00	
<i>New York Birders</i>	286.69	
Dues	50.00	
Annual Meeting - 1975	210.84	
1976	250.00	
Refund of Dues	46.65	
Miscellaneous	314.36	
Purchase of Feeders	78.84	
Pelagic Trip - 6/7/75	861.00	
10/4/75	971.83	
1976 (3)	300.00	
Lillian C. Stoner Student Expense Fund	<u>75.00</u>	
		\$8,065.79
Net Gain		\$ 342.01

\* Represents checks drawn in 1974 but not cleared until 1975.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
 LILLIAN C. STÖNER STUDENT EXPENSE FUND  
 TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,009.84
Interest Earned – Year 1975	79.77
Balance on Hand 12/31/75	\$1,089.61

NOTE: The regular account is due \$75.00 in connection with the award made to Mary McKittrick in 1975.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
 JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND  
 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,227.64
Interest Earned – Year 1975	77.32
Less: Awards presented in 1975	250.00
Balance on Hand	\$1,054.96

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
 HAWK NESTING FUND  
 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,091.85
Interest Earned – Year 1975	67.11
Less: Reimbursement to Regular Account for disbursements made in 1973 and 1974	30.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/75	\$1,128.96

Submitted by: Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer, 3/12/76

Books and accounts examined and found in good order  
 Irving Cantor, Auditor 6-7-76  
 Barbara J. Spencer, Auditor 7-6-76

It was suggested that in the future it would be helpful to have copies of the Treasurer's reports distributed to the delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting.

In the absence of Irving Cantor and Barbara Spencer, the President read the report of the Auditing Committee attesting to the Treasurer's figures as submitted.

President Sloss read a letter from Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman of the Bibliography Committee, stating that the compilation for the year 1974 had been sent to the Editors of *The Kingbird* for early publication. Chairman Spofford expressed her appreciation to all persons who sent her references to articles that she might otherwise have overlooked and especially to those persons on her Committee: John Belknap, Dr. Allen Benton and Dr. Kenneth Parkes. Mrs. Spofford also made a plea for any comparatively local publications, check lists, guides, or major articles in local club newsletters. Individuals are requested to send material to her First Class Mail at her Etna address, or at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Richard Sloss announced that Walton Sabin has accepted the Chairmanship of the Waterfowl Census Committee.

Robert Arbib, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee, presented his report. He complimented the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird*, Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, and the Editor of *New York Birders*, Max Wheat, for the excellent quality of the publica-

tions under their editorship. He announced that John Bull's *Supplement to the Birds of New York State* was now available for \$2.50 per copy plus 50¢ handling and postage, and that the initial printing amounted to 1,000 copies; and that the Ten Year Index to *The Kingbird* was now being mailed to all members. He also called attention to the fact that Susan Drennan, who is assuming the responsibility, almost single-handedly, for the monumental task of publishing a "Where To Bird In New York State" book has completed the first phase of this undertaking in the form of a questionnaire which is to be sent to people throughout the state soliciting information on the various subject matter which will be contained in this publication. Attention was also called to the new attractive membership brochure which was printed during the year.

Dr. Frederick Dittrich, Circulation Manager, reported on the distribution of *The Kingbird* as follows: 492 copies to Individual Members; 41 copies to Member Clubs; 49 subscriptions; 15 exchanges; 17 complimentary; 4 extras to members; 54 extras to Member Clubs. This is a total distribution of 672 copies of *The Kingbird* at the present time. This represents an increase of 52 over the same time the previous year.

Mary Ann Sunderlin, Vice-President, reported that she had been able to secure a mailing permit for *New York Birders* which will significantly reduce the cost of distributing this publication which was formerly mailed First Class. The attention of the delegates was also called to the new Federation decal which was distributed free in the last issue of *The Kingbird*, and which is now on sale for 50¢ per decal. Ted Dittrich suggested that a decal be given free of charge to each new member.

A motion was unanimously passed by the delegates requesting that the President write official letters of appreciation to Frederick Dittrich for his fine work as Circulation Manager, to Betty Perrigo for her similar efforts in connection with *New York Birders*, and to Al Bell who has donated his time and service for *New York Birders*.

Gordon Meade reported that his correspondence with Richard Cambridge, Secretary of the Madawaska Club, had resulted in the Club's agreeing that birders may enter the property from May 1st to September 30th, providing they do not block the entrance, that they obtain a permit from Mr. Cambridge at least two weeks in advance, and pay \$5.00 per season per person. Dr. Meade is to distribute copies of this agreement to all Federation members.

The Friday afternoon session was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The Saturday morning session of the Council of Delegates opened at 8:30 A.M. with the President's report on the year's activities and a summation of the work of the Executive Committee. Dick Sloss explained that the Executive Committee had been established three years ago to assist the Officers in the management of the affairs of the Federation and to draw upon the expertise of a broader-based group. The Committee is composed of the Officers plus ten members chosen at large. In 1976 there was one appointment made to the Committee: Robert Arbib, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee. The President noted that the Executive Committee met four times during the year and that the Federation owed a great deal to the members of this hard-working group. Dick Sloss expressed his pleasure at the response from the Member Clubs to his request that they each appoint a permanent representative to the Federation in order to improve communications between Federation and the Member Clubs. 20 clubs made such appointments with the expectation of more to come. The President advised the delegates that the amendment to the bylaws, which had been passed by the delegates at the last Annual Meeting held in Oneonta, had been ratified by the Member Clubs and that, as a result, limits to the number of years that either the Corresponding Secretary or the Treasurer may serve had been removed.

The President congratulated the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird*, Manny Levine and John Farrand, and the Editor of *New York Birders*, Max Wheat, for the fine work that they had

done over the past year. He expressed hopes for an increased participation in the Breeding Bird Census for 1977, pointing out that the Committee headed by Elaine Kibbe and Dr. Ed Reilly felt that more than 9 participating clubs would be required before statistically significant data could be generated. Congratulations were also extended to Mary Ann Sunderlin, Chairman of the Adirondack Spring Birding Trip, and to Mike Peterson and Patricia Taber of High Peaks Audubon who were responsible for the first Federation extended spring field trip. It was to be hoped that this could be repeated in 1977. Thanks to Paul DuBow for his production of a successful "birding consultant" list. This roster of Federation members, willing to act in various aspects of field guiding to visitors in their area, appeared in a recent issue of *New York Birders*.

Gordon Meade reported at length on his activities in connection with a membership drive. The pilot project involved 3 clubs: Buffalo Audubon, Allegany, and Ralph T. Waterman. 410 persons who were not Federation members received letters containing a membership brochure and excerpts from letters from members who expressed pleasure and gratification for Federation activities at Annual Meetings and pelagic trips. He reported that as a result of this effort a response in new memberships were: 7 from the June pelagic trip; 4 from the Adirondack Spring field trip; 1 from the Allegany Bird Club; 4 from the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and 12 from the Buffalo Audubon Society.

Dr. Reilly reported on the progress of establishing a Speakers Bureau, the purpose of which is to have a file listing good speakers who are willing to travel. 25 clubs have sent in such a list and it will be analyzed, broken down and filed into groups according to subject. When it is complete it will be available to Member Clubs.

The President requested the delegates to consider the advisability of establishing a New York State Avian Records Committee, calling to their attention the program on this subject which was conducted the previous evening. He asked for a discussion as to whether plans to establish a NYSARC should continue, be tabled, or terminated. He called attention to the fact that the Committee appointed at the end of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates in Oneonta, consisting of William Vaughan, Chairman, Paul DeBenedictis and Morgan Jones, had done a great deal of preliminary work over the past year, but was unable to draw up a proposed plan in time to submit to the delegates prior to the 29th Annual Meeting in Hempstead. During the year Morgan Jones was transferred to Texas and Paul DeBenedictis may not be able to continue on this Committee. After thorough discussion among the delegates a motion was made by Gordon Meade, seconded by Harold Mitchell, and carried by a majority of the delegates, to the effect that the President be empowered to appoint a Committee of 5 to 7 people to work out all details pertinent to the establishment of a NYSARC and present their proposal to the Member Clubs of the Federation by the spring of 1977, enabling individual clubs to consider the proposal and instruct their delegates for further action at the 30th Annual Meeting next year.

The report of the Nominating Committee (Gordon Meade, Chairman, Neil Moon and John M. C. Peterson) was presented by the Chairman as follows: For President Richard A. Sloss, for Vice-President Mary Ann Sunderlin, for Corresponding Secretary Martin Borko, for Recording Secretary Lona T. Coates, and for Treasurer Stephen B. Dempsey. The Chairman reported that all the proposed Officers agreed to serve for an additional year and recommended that one vote be cast to elect the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

President Dick Sloss thanked the delegates on behalf of all the Officers for the confidence that was expressed by the vote for reelection. He suggested that the present Nominating Committee be appointed to serve another year and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Nominating Committee of Gordon Meade, Chairman, Neil Moon and Mike Peterson was reelected.

The President expressed appreciation on behalf of the Federation for the work of the Auditing Committee: Irving Cantor and Barbara Spencer. He suggested that the delegates elect an Auditing Committee to serve for the year 1976 to 1977 and after due discussion, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, Irving Cantor and Herbert Roth were elected as an Auditing Committee.

The delegates unanimously approved the drawing of a resolution of appreciation to the Linnaean Society of New York to be presented at the Annual Dinner and Bill Vaughan accepted the assignment to draw the resolution.

Marge Rusk and Gerald Smith of the Onondaga Audubon Society made a strong plea for enlargement of the regional reports appearing in *The Kingbird*. A full discussion concluded with the recommendation that proponents for longer regional reports continue a dialogue with the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird* in order to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

The President announced to the delegates that the 1977 Annual Meeting would be hosted by the Alan DeVoe Bird Club and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The locale of the meeting would undoubtedly be in the Albany region. He also advised the delegates that the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Rochester Birding Association and the Genesee Ornithological Society would be host to the 1978 Annual Meeting. It was noted that the clubs of the Rochester region had entertained the membership in 1958 and again in 1968. It was felt fitting that the Annual Meeting return to the Rochester area for the commemoration of the end of the third decade of the Federation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Lona T. Coates  
Recording Secretary

At the annual banquet the following noteworthy actions were taken: A resolution of appreciation to the Linnaean Society of New York, hosts for the 29th Annual Meeting in Hempstead was presented by Bill Vaughan:

WHEREAS, the Linnaean Society of New York has been host club for the 29th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Hempstead, N.Y. on October 1st to 3rd, 1976, and

WHEREAS, all members of the Federation at this meeting wish to express their thanks for this superb meeting as it draws to a close at the banquet tonight,

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Federation hereby expresses its deep and sincere appreciation to each member of the local committee on arrangements and to the Officers and members of the Linnaean Society of New York for their kind hospitality on this occasion.

Past President Gordon Meade presented the John J. Elliott Award to Morgan Jones for his article in the July, 1975 issue of *The Kingbird* entitled "Brown-headed Cowbird Brood Parasitism On The Eastern Phoebe." Honorable mention went to Barry Devine for his article "An Observation of the Territorial and Reproductive Behavior of the Red-winged Blackbird."

The Lillian Stoner Award was presented to Jeffrey Walters from Clifton Springs, N.Y.

Two illuminated certificates were presented to Harold D. Mitchell and Lillian C. Stoner in appreciation of their long and dedicated service to the Federation.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Northern Fulmar grounded on Long Island:** Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 58) cites three observations of the Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) off the shores of Long Island (1930, 1937 and 1961). In addition, the remains of a bird were found in Oswego Co. in 1971. Recently, however, several sightings have been made on pelagic trips, usually in the vicinity of Cox's Ledge some 30 miles off shore (Bull, 1976, *Suppl. Bds. N.Y. State*, pp. 3-4). Since this species so rarely comes close to shore in the Long Island area, I was surprised on the morning of 22 October 1976 when a fulmar turned up in the driveway of my home in Brookhaven, on the south shore of Long Island about three miles north of the outer beach.



*Northern Fulmar—Brookhaven  
October 1976* *—Jonathan Cooley*

The bird was very emaciated and weak, but not crippled or oiled. I can only assume that it had been blown ashore by the strong easterly gales that had prevailed during the previous week. When I picked it up it ejected from its tubular nostrils the thickly, oily saline liquid that is used defensively by many of the Procellariiformes. The bird was of the light gray morph, and was apparently immature, as the bill was dull, pale gray rather than yellow, although there was a slight yellowing of the hooked nail on the upper mandible. The tarsi were pale gray, the webs between the toes pinkish, and the irides black.

The bird was accommodated in a large outside pen, and was fed killifish (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) and squid. We gave it a large dishpan of salty bay water, and several times it took live killies from the pan. But in order to fatten it up, we generally force-fed it. Once the food was in its bill it swallowed readily, and took an average of 15 large killies or three squid a day. In walking, it shuffled and did not stand upright like a gull, and used its wings to aid its progress. After eight days the bird became more listless, and following a rain shower we noticed that the plumage had lost its water repellent property. We gave it cod liver oil and Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> (thiamine), but it continued to decline, and on 3 November began rejecting food. On 4 November it succumbed. I can only conclude that some vital but unknown ingredient of its natural diet was lacking. Several times we had noticed it pecking at soil and apparently eating it, perhaps in an attempt to remedy this deficiency.

Dennis Puleston, Meadow Lane, Brookhaven, N.Y. 11719

**A possible New York State Dickcissel breeding colony:** Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) are presently rare as a breeding species in New York State. In western New York, Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, p. 604) noted the species as an "occasional rare visitant, recorded each season of the year." Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 552) records breeding records for single pairs of Dickcissels at Meridian, Cayuga Co., in 1937 (reported by Benton, 1949) and at Victor, Ontario Co., in 1955 (Genesee Ornith. Soc.). This note reports on a Dickcissel colony in western New York. If breeding can be confirmed in the future, the colony would apparently represent the third breeding record during this century. The authors could find no records for a New York State colony, breeding or non-breeding, in the last one hundred years.

Dickcissels were first noted in the vicinity of our research area in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua Co., on June 2, 1975. From three to five males were noted during the first week of June. Only one male remained in the area for more than a few days. This bird began to display territorial behavior in a 4-year-old abandoned field which has been previously described (*American Birds* 29: 1138-1139, Dec., 1975). A female was seen on several occasions but no breeding was confirmed.

The first indication of possible breeding and the establishment of a colony occurred on June 14, 1976. In the open field where the 1975 male had been consistently found, a male Dickcissel was found singing at 0640 hours. By 1400 hours the same day, two males were singing and two or three females were also

present in the field. On the following day, Slack found two males and a female still present and from 0914 to 0929 hours he twice observed copulation between one pair of birds. By 1900 hours on that day, a third male was discovered singing in a field approximately 100 meters west of the location of the other males. At 2015 hours Baumgartner observed copulation, possibly between the pair observed copulating earlier. Three males were present until June 20, at which time the field and the immediate vicinity were "invaded" by Dickcissels. At 2030 hours on this day, both observers counted seven to nine singing males, three of which were accompanied by one or more females. Eight to ten males were observed in the area throughout the remainder of June and as many as five females were seen.

On June 28 Slack banded two females, both of which showed distinct incubation patches. On the following day a male with a distended cloacal protuberance was banded. A female bird was also observed carrying nesting material on this date, but no nest could be located.

From July 1 to July 20, three or four males were still present at the original location, while the remainder apparently moved onto open fields approximately 0.8 kilometers west. On July 5, Baumgartner counted four to six males at this second location. Singing males were still present in this new location on July 22. The authors were not present in the area again until late August, at which time no birds could be located. Such abandonment of an area by late July or August would not necessarily be indicative of non-breeding birds or an unsuccessful breeding attempt, as Fretwell (*Chat* 31: 85-88) recorded pairs of Dickcissels arriving on June 13 and June 15 at a North Carolina breeding site, and these birds were not seen later than July 17.

The territorial behavior displayed by the males at the first location for a period of over one month and the observation of copulation on three occasions indicate that breeding may well have occurred in the area. The breeding condition of the banded birds and the fact that a female was seen carrying nesting material serve as further evidence, although the discovery of nests or young is necessary to establish proof of breeding. The authors hope that the information presented here will encourage others to investigate known former breeding areas and other suitable habitat in western New York during the 1977 breeding season for possible breeding Dickcissels.

The authors wish to thank Vincent J. Lucid for review of the manuscript and for assistance during a portion of the field studies. Portions of this study were funded by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

Roy S. Slack and Cathie A. Baumgartner, Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc., 8398 Oswego Road, Liverpool, N.Y. 13088.

**White-eyed Vireo in Essex County:** On 2, 4 and 11 October 1976, I saw a White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) in a stand of alders, poplars and other small trees along a brook in the village of Elizabethtown, Essex County. On each occasion it was the middle of a warm, sunny morning. The bird was moving slowly and turning its head in a characteristic vireo manner. It appeared smaller than a Yellow-throated Vireo (*V. flavifrons*) and had two narrow, pale wing bars. The flanks, upper belly and "spectacles" were lemon yellow, the upper breast was light gray and the throat was white. The bird was clearly a White-eyed Vireo on the basis of its white throat and lemon yellow "spectacles," the former character distinguishing it from the Yellow-throated Vireo and the latter distinguishing it from Bell's Vireo (*V. bellii*). The iris was dark, indicating a first-year bird; White-eyed Vireos do not acquire a white iris until the spring following hatching or even later. The northernmost record for this species listed by Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 456) is near Troy in Rensselaer Co., about 100 miles south of Elizabethtown.

Geoffrey Carleton, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

**Fox preys on nocturnal migrants:** While visiting Jones Beach State Park at 2:00 A.M. October 24, 1976, I noted a substantial flight of passersines moving west along the beach. The night was warm and overcast and birds' night calls were clearly audible. I discerned the notes of American Robins, Myrtle Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows; the remainder were unidentifiable. I continued to Robert Moses State Park at the western tip of Fire Island. At the water tower I observed a number of birds circulating in the lights that play on the tower. I parked and approached to investigate. There were about 200 Myrtle Warblers present, many alighting in bayberry bushes, on the concrete pedestal surrounding the tower, and on the sides of the tower. Nearing the tower, I observed a Red Fox (*Vulpes fulva*) on the pedestal. It was jumping about, attempting to capture exhausted birds. I am curious to know whether this opportunistic behavior has been noted at lighthouses or wherever there are tower kills.

Peter Polshek, Excerpted from *The Linnaean News-Letter*, Vol. XXX, No. 9

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

There is now no doubt that the weather for the fall of 1976 was sending us a clear message: Brother, it's gonna be a cold winter! September was relatively decent but October was the coldest on record in many places and November brought more cold and snow in many areas. Areas in Region 7 reported snow "for keeps" as early as October 10. Many areas of open water froze early, driving out the few waterfowl that were being reported. The conditions were not good for birders to be in the field.

The effect on the birds, however, was contradictory and in many cases quite unexpected. Conventional wisdom would have said that summer birds should depart very early and that there would be an influx from the north with early arrival dates. Note, however, the very late dates reported from many regions. In Region 1 there was a Blue-winged Warbler on Sept. 29. Region 2 produced a Common Nighthawk on Oct. 16, a Chimney Swift on Oct. 19, an Eastern Phoebe on Nov. 11 and an American Redstart on Nov. 28. Region 5 had a Rough-winged Swallow on Oct. 4 and a Nashville Warbler on Nov. 5. There are other examples in the various regional reports. On the other hand, the winter finch flight was reported zero to poor in all regions except the Adirondack area and there were few reports of Rough-legged Hawks or Snowy Owls. Inland regions also reported that the more southerly species such as Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren were either holding their own or increasing.

There were, of course, some early arrivals such as the Purple Sandpiper on Oct. 7 and the Lapland Longspur on Sept. 6 in Region 5, and the Iceland Gull on Oct. 13 in Region 8. A good flight of Northern Shrikes developed with the first on Oct. 15 in Region 5 for a local early record and coming close to the state record of Oct. 6. Region 5 also had the greatest number of Northern Shrikes, with a total of 26 individuals—the overall total was 44 for the season.

Many regions had good numbers of land bird migrants during the fall. The outer beaches of Long Island had fantastic numbers of Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and especially sparrows, of which there were an estimated maximum of 100,000 birds along the Jones Beach strip on Oct. 24. Region 5 reported a "great flight" between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6 on the Ontario Lakeplains. Dr. Scheider found the birds gathering in large "feeding assemblages" with other

areas nearly devoid of birds. This is surprisingly reminiscent of the situation in the tropics where the birds gather in feeding flocks containing many different species. Perhaps this thought could help to mitigate the effects of the local weather conditions.

The continuing growth of interest in hawk migrations is reflected in reports from several new locations. Observers are finding that local lookouts can be as rewarding as some of the better known places—and they are much less crowded. Note the results in Regions 3 and 5 as well as the usual reports from Region 9.

From the evidence of the fall reports, it almost seems that the jaegers have deserted their oceanic habitat in favor of Lake Ontario. Sea trips off Long Island reported very few jaegers although the Skua reports were a positive bonus. Region 1 had a single Parasitic; Region 2 had 4 Pomarines and 3 Parasitic; Region 5 had 1 Pomarine and a fantastic 50 Parasitics with 31 seen in one day.

The popular name "sea gull" has always been a wretched one but never more so than this past season. It was a superb larid season in many of the inland regions. Region 1 had 11 species of gulls including Lesser Black-backed, Black-legged Kittiwake and Sabine's. Region 2 had 10 species with the best being Thayer's, Franklin's and Black-legged Kittiwake. Region 5 had fine numbers of the rarer small gulls: 18 Little Gulls, 6 Franklin's and 14 Black-legged Kittiwakes. Region 6 joins the party with Laughing and Franklin's and Region 8 produced another Lesser Black-backed. Although one expects gulls in Region 10, a third Lesser Black-backed, Franklin's and Sabine's are noteworthy. Inland shore-birding was quite variable depending on local water levels. Montezuma Wildlife Refuge had 27 species until the water level was raised "to facilitate the duck hunters." Is this the proper purpose of a "refuge"—to ruin the habitat for one group of species to help out a very small proportion of the human species?

Along this same line is the report from nearly every region concerning the low numbers of blackbirds and the absence of some of the normally large roosts. Only Region 9 reported a major flight. Has the army at last succeeded in something that they set out to do?

Previous comments in the *Highlights* about the relative numbers of Mallard and Black Ducks are emphasized by the counts in these reports and more importantly in a recent article by Johnsgard and DiSilvestro in the current issue of *American Birds* (vol. 30, no. 5). After analyzing 75 years of Christmas Bird Counts they come to the following conclusion: "It seems likely that the relatively specialized Black Duck, through increased competition and hybridization with

the more broadly adaptable Mallard, will continue to become an increasingly rarer component of the North American bird fauna." It is indeed a shame that a semidomesticated species is replacing the classic "wild duck" of the east coast.

Except in the coastal region, the number of spectacular rarities was very low. Numerous very good local records were well documented in the following reports. In addition to the previously mentioned gulls, Region 2 produced an Eared Grebe and Yellow-throated and Kentucky Warblers; Region 3 a Wheatear and Bohemian Waxwings; Region 5 added Louisiana Heron to the regional list and Region 7 did likewise with a White-eyed Vireo; Region 8 can boast of another Wheatear and a Western Kingbird, the latter species also turning up in Region 9 along with Kentucky Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow (the latter two reported with no date!).

As is so frequently true in the fall, most of the vagrants moved to the coast. Among the more regular wanderers were Yellow-throated Warbler, Western Tanager, 5 Blue Grosbeaks, 10 Lark Sparrows and a Clay-colored Sparrow. The Common Puffin was one of the very few records for the state although undoubtedly there would be many more if boat trips were undertaken by hardy observers in the winter. Puffins have been seen regularly in small numbers (max. 16) off Maryland. A third Wheatear was seen in what must be called the greatest "flight" ever reported in one season. Two Brewer's Blackbirds were very well seen and described and must be added to the few good sight records for this difficult-to-identify species.

Three species certainly qualify for the Bird of the Season award. The Townsend's Warbler was seen by one person. There are six previous sight records, only one of them in the fall. The Gray Kingbird was seen by several observers. There are two specimens and three good sight records for the state. The BOTS award must go, however, to the Spotted Redshank seen on Oct. 4 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Because it was seen by only one observer and not photographed it must remain on the hypothetical list for the state but the excellent details of the observation leave no doubt as to the correctness of the identification. There is no previous state record although the species has been collected in Connecticut and seen in Ontario. It is unfortunate that such a good bird was overlooked by so many observers in an area that is as heavily birded as anywhere in the country. It certainly pays to take a second look at a presumably common bird!

*Millbrook School, Millbrook, N.Y. 12545*

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Although weather this fall simulated premature winter, birders still enjoyed rainbow-adorned field and feeder (red Cardinals, Orange-crowned Warblers, yellow Evening Grosbeaks, green goldfinches, bluebirds, Purple Finches . . .) along with an occasional unforeseen species to spangle the spirits. A wet Sept. and Oct. averaged temperatures  $2^{\circ}$  C. ( $31^{\circ}$  F.) below normal, but the dry Nov., which here was  $3.9^{\circ}$  C. ( $7^{\circ}$  F.) colder than usual, in N. Carolina was  $2.5^{\circ}$  F. below the record low Nov. average set in 1901. (*Wellsville Reporter*, Dec. 1). Our infamous weather swept in with the jet stream which this year in an unusual pattern brings arctic air from Alaska south over the Great Lakes. Small lakes and ponds were frozen to stay Nov. 8, very early, and Lake Erie reached  $3.3^{\circ}$  C. ( $38^{\circ}$  F.) Nov. 30, the day a freak storm dumped up to 4 ft. of snow on Buffalo and areas to the south.

Characteristics of the season include: (1) food generally abundant, *i.e.* mice, wild grape, fruits of Cucumber Tree, and the cone and mast (Red Oak) crops, but a spotty Box Elder fruit crop, (2) a delightful shore bird flight, (3) a "banner" season for larids, especially in Nov. (JT), (4) steady populations of Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds, but very low counts of Cardinals, (5) an excellent showing of E. Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings, (6) widespread low numbers of many birds—400 fewer banded at Farmersville Sta. than last year during Aug., Sept. and Oct. (DC), (7) good reports of Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls, but dearth of other owl news except for Snowy, (8) very few rails, Horned Larks, Red-breasted Nuthatches or Brown Creepers, (9) icterid counts all down except for Com. Grackles, and (10) only a trickle of Evening Grosbeaks and almost no other winter finches.

Rarities are: Little Blue Heron, Mute Swan, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Western Sandpiper, all three phalaropes, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Common Raven, Dickcissel, House Finch, and "Oregon" Junco. *Addenda* from the summer are: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and White-eyed Vireo.

Abbreviations: ACBC—Allegany Co. Bird Census, Oct. 10; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; SP—State Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Although the max of a fine flight of Com. Loons was 20 on Kinzua Reservoir at Salamanca Nov. 4 (JV, RV), only one Red-throated Loon appeared in Yates Nov. 1 (HK, WK). The only report of the Red-necked Grebe was max 2 at Cuba L. Oct. 28, 29 (AnS), and a single Double-crested Cormorant was sighted at the Allegany Reservoir Oct. 1 (SE). The rare ad LITTLE BLUE HERON, identified at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30 (DF), was a month later than might be expected. A Great Egret appeared on the ACBC, and also at Iroquois NWR with max 8 between Sept. 15 and Oct. 6 (JM+), at Keeney Swamp with one on Sept. 29 and Oct. 1 (DB, LB, KP), and at Houghton, a late one on Nov. 10 (R. Smalley). Black-crowned Night Herons were few: 6 at Tiff Farm Sept. 9 (RA+) and max 15 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 28 (Olsen). Continuing its visit from the summer, the MUTE SWAN at

Times Beach stayed on through Oct. 30 (mob). The small Whistling Swan flight, reported from 4 areas, peaked at 250 at Chautauqua L. Nov. 13 (RS+). Max of widely scattered flocks of Canada Geese was low, only 1754 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 29 (JM+); 3 (one a cripple) at Farmersville Banding Sta. Nov. 1-30 may winter here (DC). The Snow Goose was reported only from Iroquois NWR with max 6 on Oct. 3, 6 (RA,Bauer+).

The following are maximum waterfowl counts at Iroquois NWR, unless indicated otherwise: Mallard, 966 on Oct. 29 (JM+); Black Duck, 64 on Oct. 29 (JM+); Gadwall, 210 on Oct. 30 (DF); Pintail, 40 on Goat Is. Nov. 21 (Clark, Schaffner); Blue-winged Teal: 6, late, at Buckhorn Is. SP Nov. 28 (HK,WK); Am. Wigeon, 2000 on Oct. 5 (Olsen); N. Shoveler, 11 on Oct. 23 (JM); and Wood Duck, 32 in Hume Sept. 10 (KP,DB,LB). Other interesting waterfowl notes are: Redhead, max 100 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 20 (Olsen+) and 3 on the ACBC; Ring-necked Duck, max 200 on Bond's L Oct. 23 (HK,WK); Canvasback, 3000 at Niagara Falls Nov. 21 (Schaffner, Clark); Greater Scaup, max 1000 at 4-Mi. Creek SP Oct. 23 (HK,WK); Com. Goldeneye, max 30 at Buffalo Nov. 9 (DF); Oldsquaw, max 5 at Cuba L Oct. 29 (AnS); White-winged Scoter, 3 at Amity L Oct. 13 (VP,RP); Surf Scoter, 5 at Dewittville Oct. 30 (RS); Black Scoter, max 85 at Buffalo Oct. 19 (DF) and 34 on Cuba L Oct. 10-12 (AnS), unprecedented numbers for the latter location; Ruddy Duck, max 200 at Pt. Chautauqua Oct. 30 (RS); Hooded Merganser, max 40 at Chautauqua L. Nov. 13 (RS+); Com. Merganser, 16, early, on Genesee R, Caneadea, Nov. 11 (LW), and max 500 at Niagara F. Nov. 21 (Schaffner, Clark); Red-breasted Merganser, 15, early, on Allegany Reservoir Oct. 8 (SE), and max 300 at Buffalo Nov. 9 (DF).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** In Allegany Co. 2 GOSHAWKS appeared for the ACBC and one was seen Sept. 27 (VP). Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported as 5 on the ACBC and singles from 11 areas. Cooper's Hawks were identified as 4 on the ACBC, and singles in 12 areas, with the 8 from Allegany Co. and Cattaraugus Co. probably resident birds. Only one Red-shouldered Hawk appeared on the ACBC, a steady decline from 7 in 1973. A total of 7 Rough-legged Hawks was reported from 6 locations, the first at Wheatfield Oct. 21 (HK,WK). Single imm BALD EAGLES were identified at Allegany Reservoir Sept. 10 (SE) and at Iroquois NWR Oct. 2 (Olsen). Ospreys tallied 3 on the ACBC and individuals were sighted at 8 scattered sites. Exciting were two rarities: a PEREGRINE FALCON at Tonawanda WMA Sept. 27 (Reboviches, Carroll, Eddy) and Oct. 30 (DF); and a MERLIN at Porter Ave., Buffalo, Sept. 28 (DF).

Counts on the ACBC were low for Ruffed Grouse, 12 (40 in 1973), Ring-necked Pheasants, 11, and Turkeys, 18. Without the usual concentration of thousands of Am. Coots on Chautauqua L. this year, max was only 178 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 30 (JM).

Highlights of the shore bird flight include: Semipalmated Plover: one near Allegany Oct. 8 (SE), where it is uncommon; Killdeer: max 265(!) at Clarence Sept. 2 (DF); Am. Golden Plover: max 45 at Clarence Oct. 3 (AM,WM), and one near Allegany Oct. 8 (SE), unusual in the Southern Tier; Willet: one very late at Times Beach Oct. 2, 30, 24 (RA,DF+); Red Knot: one with still salmon-colored lower breast, and apparently "oddly banded with long band and white," near Allegany Oct. 8 (SE); Purple Sandpiper: 5 at Niagara F. Nov. 21 (Schaffner, Clark); Baird's Sandpiper: one at Prendergast Pt. Sept. 1-4 (RS) and 1, 2, 1 at Times Beach Sept. 15, 17, 19 (RA+); Dunlin: a superb flight with max 216 at Olcott Oct. 23 (RA+); WESTERN SANDPIPER: one at Bemus Pt. Sept. 5 (RS) and two at Tonawanda WMA Sept. 30 (WR,JM,Carroll); a late RED PHALAROPE at Pt. Gratiot Nov. 27 (Andries); a late WILSON'S PHALAROPE at Iroquois NWR Sept. 15 (JM); and 3 NORTHERN PHALAROPES at the Peace Bridge Sept. 22 (HA).

A Parasitic Jaeger was spotted at Hamburg Nov. 14 (Foster). This was a STUPENDOUS larid season with: Glaucous Gull, arr at Cuba L Nov. 9 (AnS)—where it is unusual; Iceland Gull, one at Niagara Gorge Nov. 27 (Wilcove); Great Black-backed Gull, max 150 on Niagara R Nov. 14 (DF+); LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, one imm at Niagara Gorge

Nov. 27 (Wilcove, McMichael); Herring Gull, max 22,000 on Niagara R Nov. 14 (DF+); Ring-billed Gull, max 22,500 at Niagara Gorge Oct. 17 (HK,WK); Franklin's Gull, max 4 at Times Beach, Niagara R and Buffalo areas, irregularly Sept. 19-Nov. 26 (mob); Bonaparte's Gull, max 36,000 on Niagara R Nov. 14 (DF+), and 2200 at Barcelona Nov. 27 (RS); Little Gull, one at Bird Is. Sept. 5 (RA+), two at the Peace Bridge Sept. 9 (HA), max 7 at Times Beach Sept. 15, 19 (RA+), two at Buffalo Sept. 28 (DF), max 4 at Lewiston Nov. 3 (HK,WK), max 2 at Niagara F and Gorge Nov. 13-21 (mob), and one at Barcelona Nov. 27 (RS); one imm **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** and an imm **SABINE'S GULL**—rare statewide—both at Niagara F Nov. 13 (McMichael, Frank, Horvett); Com. Tern, 400(!) at Lewiston Sept. 25 (HK,WK).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** One lone Yellow-billed Cuckoo appeared this season at E. Amherst Oct. 11 (DF). Single Snowy Owls, in Niagara Co. Nov. 11 (Sommerville) and at Little Valley, Thanksgiving weekend (*Buffalo Courier*, Nov. 28, courtesy SE), constituted the only reports. Max and early dep of Com. Nighthawks was 75 at Jamestown Sept. 14 (RS). Red-headed Woodpeckers totaled 11 birds from 5 areas.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** The E. Kingbird left early, the last one at Model City Sept. 5 (AM,WM), but a late Great Crested Flycatcher was recorded at Tifft Farm Oct. 2 (RA+). 75 E. Phoebes on the ACBC was over 3 times the previous 3-yr. average. A late *Empidonax* flycatcher (species?) was noted at E. Amherst Oct. 16 (DF). Max, gathering to go south, were 400 Tree Swallows at Buffalo Sept. 28 (DF) and 150 Purple Martins at Lewiston Sept. 8 (Farrell). 15 Barn Swallows were found for the ACBC.

A **COMMON RAVEN** flew up 4-Mile valley s. of Allegany Nov. 14 (SE), about a mile n. of the N.Y.-Pa. line. Max Hermit Thrushes was 22 at Barcelona Oct. 3 (RS), and max of the Gray-cheeked Thrush was 3 also at Barcelona Oct. 3 (RS), with singles of the latter appearing in 7 areas. E. Bluebirds tallied 90 on the ACBC, highest in 4 yrs; max of personal reports was 27 (glorious!) at Collins Oct. 24 (AM,WM). Peak kinglet counts were 98 Golden-crowned on the ACBC and 150 Ruby-crowned at Bond's L Oct. 3 (AM,WM). From fair regional numbers, max Water Pipits was 95 at Tifft Farm Oct. 2 (RA+). Both shrikes were found: single Northernns in 8 locations from Oct. 23 thru, and a Loggerhead on the ACBC from the Alfred area.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Philadelphia Vireos noted were one at Cuba L Sept. 1 (AnS) and two at Williamsville Sept. 15 (DF). Choice warbler tidbits include: Blue-winged Warbler: one, late, banded at Alfred Sept. 29 (EB); Orange-crowned Warbler: early dep, one at E. Amherst Oct. 8 (DF); Nashville Warbler: 3, late, banded at Alfred Oct. 23 (EB); Blackpoll Warbler: one at Buckhorn Is. SP Oct. 2 (HK,WK); Pine Warbler: one on ACBC, 11 in W. Almond Sept. 4 (DB,LB) and one at Clarence Sept. 12, 18 (DF); a late Ovenbird, window-killed, at Alfred Oct. 26 (LC); Connecticut Warbler: one at E. Amherst Sept. 11 (DF) and one at Barcelona Sept. 25 (RS)—rare finds.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** The 3143 Com. Grackles on the ACBC is 8 times the previous 3-yr. average. A late N. Oriole appeared at E. Amherst Oct. 4 (DF). Max Rusty Blackbirds were noted Oct. 3: 40 at Elma (DF) and 35 at Bond's L (HK,WK).

Cardinals tallied only 85 on the ACBC, 50% of the 1973-1975 average. A **DICKCISSEL** appeared regularly at a Cuba L feeder Nov. 18-30 (AnS). Very late arriving were Evening Grosbeaks, the first 4 appearing at Alfred Nov. 4 (EB). The **HOUSE FINCH** continues its expansion: at least 31 birds were totaled from 5 areas, one a new location at Wellsville where max 2 appeared Oct. 14-26 (EL). The only report of the Com. Redpoll was a female at an Alfred feeder Nov. 14 (HT) and Pine Siskins also were exceptionally scarce.

Noteworthy sparrows of the season include: A Savannah Sparrow at Amity L Nov. 29 (VP)—incredibly late; at least 8 Henslow's Sparrows at Clarence Sept. 18 (DF); 21 Vesper Sparrows on the ACBC, still a low figure; at least one Dark-eyed ("OREGON") Junco at E. Amherst Oct. 6-11, 24 (DF); a late Chipping Sparrow verified at an Alfred feeder Nov.

21, 22 (LC); single Fox Sparrows, on the ACBC, at Orchard Park Oct. 1, Nov. 1 (Saville), and at E. Amherst Oct. 17 (DF); and Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 on the ACBC, 4 in Hume Sept. 13 (KP), one banded at Alfred Sept. 28 (EB), and one, late, at Times Beach Oct. 24 (DF). A Lapland Longspur arr at Times Beach Oct. 24 (DF) and the first Snow Buntings were 25 at Cheektowaga the same day (R. Hull).

**Addendum:** Noteworthy sightings not included in the Region 1 Summer report are: a rare BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER at Clarence Aug. 15 (DF+); one more WILSON'S PHALAROPE at Iroquois NWR Aug. 8 (AM,WM); another WHITE-EYED VIREO at Newstead Aug. 20 (DF); the first Pine Warbler of fall migration at Alfred Aug. 29 (CK); and a Connecticut Warbler at Times Beach Aug. 29 (Foster).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

RICHARD O'HARA

Following a cool, wet summer, we have had a cold but rather dry fall. September was mild, but October was one of the coldest on record here, and November was remarkably consistent—steady cold and lots of birds but without very pronounced waves—especially of early waterfowl and most passerine species. An exception was a heavy incursion of gulls and some diving ducks in mid-November. Water levels on Lake Ontario dropped belatedly producing a few good records of late shore birds. So far, the flight of most cyclical winter visitants has been poor except for Northern Shrike and Pine Siskin which has been only fair. Some of the finches are almost entirely absent, and the Snowy Owl is still unreported to date.

**Rarities:** Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, King Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Red Phalarope, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Thayer's Gull, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, European Goldfinch.

**Positive Trends:** (1) excellent variety of species reported—except for some passerines. (2) seven reports of jaegers—both Pomarine and Parasitic—above average. (3) tremendous flight of gulls—ten species noted. (4) many Northern Shrikes. (5) good variety of warblers—some species in good numbers.

**Negative Trends:** (1) rather poor flight of dabbling ducks. (2) no Peregrines. (3) shore bird habitat poor—most numbers low. (4) no Snowy Owls—few Rough-legged Hawks. (5) few winter finches to date.

**Abbreviations:** BB—Braddock's Bay; DP—Durand Park; EL—East Lakeshore; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; HP—Hamlin Park; IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet; mob—many observers; MP—Mendon Ponds; NC—Northrup Creek; OB—Ontario Beach; PB—Point Breeze; RBA—Rochester Birding Association; SB—Sodus Bay; WP—Webster Park.

**Observers Cited:** Roger Clark, Jerry Czech, Frank and Robert Dobson, Kay Doris, Arlene and John Foster, Neil Henderson, Al Kemnitzer, J. Lillard, Walter C. Listman, Warren Lloyd, Neil Moon, Don Nelson, Richard O'Hara, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Jean Shelly, Robert and Sue Spahn, William Symonds, Dave, Mike and Tom Tetlow, Robert Thomen, Kenneth Winkler, Gijs Woldkek.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Red-throated Loon max. 6—Nov. 14 (low). Red-necked Grebe, only 4

reports, all singles, Oct. 19 to Nov. 25. **EARED GREBE**, one, Oct. 10 BB (CP). Double-crested Cormorant, max. 4—Oct. 28 BB (NH). Great Egret—last Oct. 10 IB (WL). Whistling Swan several reports—max. 10—Oct. 20. Brant—peak day Oct. 26—hundreds reported flying by several parties. Snow Goose, max. 4 (blue)—Oct. 26 HB (KD *et al.*).

Early arrival dates among the ducks are getting hard to pinpoint with so many species now summering here, but the following reports are of interest: Ring-necked Duck 3 Sept. 26; Canvasback 3 Sept. 25; Greater Scaup 2 Sept. 11; Oldsquaw 4 Sept. 10; both Black Scoter and Surf Scoter Sept. 28. Also noteworthy are a very early **HARLEQUIN DUCK** Oct. 16 PB (CP) and high counts of 27 Ruddy Ducks at SB Oct. 10 (TT *et al.*) and 17 at HP Oct. 28 (GOS) as well as 1400 Oldsquaw and 800 White-winged Scoters IBO Nov. 14 (AK). Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers numbers were also good.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A Goshawk on Sept. 6 (early) was the first of 4 reported (JC). Sharp-shinned Hawk was noted 10 times and Cooper's Hawk 6 times this fall. The first Rough-legged Hawk was early Sept. 5 EL (WL *et al.*) but only a few were seen this fall. An adult Bald Eagle was seen at Mt. Morris Nov. 6 (KW). Single Merlin were reported on Sept. 16, 19 and 21, all near the lakeshore. Peregrine—no reports.

A **KING RAIL**, rare here, was well described and compared to nearby Common Gallinules for size Sept. 1 HP (GW). At least 28 species of shore birds appeared here in spite of rather poor conditions for them, but numbers were rather low in most cases. The best records were: Am. Golden Plover 80 Lima Sept. 12 (A&JF) and 100 Sept. 15. Hamlin (CP), **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** 1 Oct. 5 BB (RBA) and 1 Oct. 17 OB (R&SS). **WHIMBREL** max 3. Sept. 15 WL (WS), Northern Phalarope—several reports, 1-2 birds Sept. 4-15 WL. **RED PHALAROPE** 1 Oct. 28 IBO (AK). Long-billed Dowitcher Oct. 30 to Nov. 7 (last) NC (NM *et al.*), **PURPLE SANDPIPER** 1 Oct. 30 R&SS, Western Sandpiper 1 Oct. 5 (last), **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**, max. 5 (very good) Sept. 16-25 Kendall (mob).

Red Knots were scarce this fall, but Baird's Sandpipers were widespread, max. 4. Pомarine Jaeger—4 reports Oct. 10-24 WL (RBA), **PARASITIC JAEGER**—3 reports, 1-2 Oct. 10-16 WL (RBA)—both more than usual.

Gulls were truly spectacular. Thousands of Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls—max. 6000 est. Nov. 28 (F&RD)—were joined by hundreds of Great Black-backed Gulls. Sharp-eyed observers also noted several Little Gulls, 3 **FRANKLIN'S GULLS** Nov. 21-26 (RC *et al.*) and 3 **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES**—2 on Nov. 8 BB (WCL) and 1 on Nov. 23 HP (CP). **THAYER'S GULLS**—noted in August were again reported and carefully described—3 ad. Sept. 1-7 Kendall (CP *et al.*). The first Glaucous Gulls were two seen Nov. 25 and 2 early Iceland Gulls were noted on Oct. 28 WP (AK). Most observers felt that a huge die-off of minnows, obvious on many beaches, attracted the gulls to this region.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** A Long-eared Owl Sept. 11 at BB was very early (CP). Another was found dead on Nov. 3 at HP. The first Short-eared Owls appeared Nov. 13—4 birds near HP (RC&WS). Snowy Owl—no reports.

Common Nighthawk—peak 32 over Rochester Sept. 6 (DN). A very late one was at Honeoye Falls on Oct. 16 (AF). Chimney Swift also stayed very late in Penfield—40 noted Oct. 8, and one on Oct. 19 (RT). Common Flickers staged a good flight—200 on Sept. 28 was the high count and a Pileated Woodpecker at BB on Sept. 19 is an unusual location.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** A very late E. Phoebe was seen near Geneseo Nov. 14 (D,M&TT). A few Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and one Olive-sided Flycatcher were noted in September. Swallows disappeared early, and numbers were not very high. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported only in small numbers, also. A very late House Wren was in Lima Nov. 14 (A&JF). Both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were rather early and common for a time in mid-September. The last report of each was Oct. 17 (late). A count of 300 Water Pipit on Oct. 4 is good WL (WS). Northern Shrikes came early—first Oct. 26—and

in good numbers. A single Loggerhead Shrike was present Sept. 4 WL (WS) and another was in Hamlin Oct. 30 (R&SS).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** The flight of these species was steady and for some species good, but there were no really heavy waves due to mild weather in September. October produced some unusual late dates and November two spectacular ones. Most outstanding were the **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** at BB Sept. 4 (WCL) a first fall record here, and a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** Sept. 14 (WL) Webster. Other noteworthy reports include: 5 Orange-crowned Warblers Sept. 3-15 (early) and 2 on Nov. 28 MP (A&JF)—very late, Pine Warbler 1 Sept. 4 Webster (WL), Connecticut Warbler—4 reports (high) Sept. 11-19, and 2 Am. Redstarts (imm. and female) MP Nov. 28 new late date (A&JF).

Warblers noted in unusual numbers include: Cape May, max. 25, Black-throated Blue, max. 25, Bay-breasted, max. 60, Blackpoll, max. 45. In addition, late reports were: Tennessee Warbler Oct. 12, Pine Warbler Oct. 21 and Louisiana Waterthrush Oct. 8 Penfield (RT)—very late but well described.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** No really large flocks of blackbirds were reported except Starlings—are they declining? A count of 500 Rusty Blackbirds at WL is good, however (F&RD). A report of 30 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at IC Sept. 16 is high (JS). House Finches—3 stations, known in Rochester area now. Evening Grosbeaks—only one report—very low. Purple Finch—small numbers but widespread. 500 Am. Goldfinches is a high count Nov. 4 Hamlin (JS,PR). A **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** again appeared in Penfield Nov. 23 (JL). Common Redpoll—3 reports Oct. 15-30, max. 10. Pine Grosbeak—2 reports—both Oct. 30, 1 and 2 birds only. Red Crossbill—4 Oct. 30 DP (RO). White-winged Crossbill—1 Nov. 8 Brockport (GW) only records. This is certainly not the year for northern finches thus far.

Sparrows were rather poorly reported except for very large numbers of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows at the end of September with peaks of 250 and 1500 respectively. A single "Oregon" Junco was noted in Lima Nov. 24 (AF). A few Fox Sparrows and one early Lapland Longspur accompanied them. Snow Buntings were present after mid-October in small flocks.

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## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Brrr-r-r. The fall season was one of the coldest on record with September, October and November temperatures averaging, respectively, 4°, 7° and 6° F. (2°, 4°, and 3° C) below normal. A killing frost occurred on September 21. Light snows came in late October and flurries continued thru November with the ground white by Thanksgiving. Precipitation was normal in September. Heavy rains fell October 9-10. November precipitation was below normal.

The number of hawk sightings, excluding Red-tails and Am. Kestrels which are doing well, encourages one to feel cautiously optimistic about their future. However, the increase in sightings may be more apparent than real as one third of them came from Thatcher's Pinnacles, a recently discovered hawk migration watching spot near West Danby. Another raptor plus was the pair of Barn Owls that successfully fledged a brood at Odessa.

Shore-birding at Tschache Pool, Montezuma Refuge, was excellent during the first half

of September until the water level was raised to facilitate the duck hunters. In all, 27 species were observed. Elsewhere in the region there was little shore-birding.

The sighting of a possible Fish Crow (no vocalizations heard but a good description filed) at Elmira, added to the presence of the species at Ithaca for the past three years, raises the question of a possible range extension for the bird.

Another plus was the banding of 26 Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Penn Yan by Malcolm Lerch.

Northern finches were the big disappointment of the season. Two reports each of a few Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches, single sightings of Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill and no Pine Grosbeaks or White-winged Crossbills sum up the story of the season.

A total of 453+ birds (of 42 species) were killed at the WSYE-TV tower in Elmira this fall. Of these 236, including 17 species of warblers and 13 others, died on the night of Oct. 2-3.

Rarities include Louisiana Heron, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Wheatear and Bohemian Waxwing.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; PY—Penn Yan-Keuka; ThP—Thatcher's Pinnacles near West Danby; \* (starred)—details on file.

Compilers and contributors: Walter E. Benning; Michael Braun; Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen); James Gibson (Ithaca); Robert Gustafson (MNWR); Bernice Hilfiker; Wilfred Howard; Malcolm Lerch (PY); F. G. Scheider; Jeffery Walters; Mary Welles (Elmira).

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: up to 10 seen on Cay L. Pied-billed Grebe: max 100 MNWR Sept. 1. Double-crested Cormorant: Ithaca 3 Sept. 9 and 1 Oct. 2; 1 MNWR Sept. 21. Great Egret: 4 MNWR thru Sept. 25. Snowy Egret: 1 MNWR Sept. 19. **LOUISIANA HERON:** the bird previously reported at MNWR remained thru Sept. 9. Least Bittern: singles MNWR Sept. 24 and Oct. 4. Whistling Swan: 2 adults and 1 immature Branchport Nov. 16. Canada Goose: migrants began coming into the region Sept. 17; max MNWR 22,000 Oct. 11. Brant: 1 Horseheads Oct. 6; immature Ithaca Oct. 28. Snow Goose: 100 MNWR Oct. 24; 30 Elmira Oct. 3.

The max duck counts as taken by the refuge personnel at MNWR are as follows: Mallard: 8,000 Nov. 1. Black: 2,000 Nov. 15. Gadwall: 1,000 Oct. 26. Pintail: 500 Oct. 21. Green-winged Teal: 8,000 Oct. 20. Blue-winged Teal: 3,000 Sept. 15. Am. Wigeon: 8,000 Oct. 1. N. Shoveler: 500 Oct. 1. Wood Duck: 2,500 Sept. 30. Redhead: 100 Nov. 3. Ring-necked Duck: 50 Oct. 20. Canvasback: 50 Oct. 27. Scaup: none. Bufflehead: 40 Oct. 20. Ruddy: 80 Nov. 11. Am. Goldeneye: 2 Nov. 30. Hooded Merganser: 200 Nov. 10. Com. Merganser: 400 Nov. 23.

Other regional duck records: Mallard: 500 Clifton Springs Oct. 1; 300 Camp Dittmer, Phelps Nov. 11. Black: 100 Sheldrake Nov. 26; 50 Clifton Springs late Nov. Wood Duck: 20 Texas Hollow Sanctuary Oct. 1. Redhead: 600 Sheldrake Oct. 10; 500 PY Nov. Canvasback: 20 Union Springs Nov. 4. Greater Scaup: 2 Cay L SP Oct. 10. Lesser Scaup: 10 Cay L Oct. 10. Com. Goldeneye: 7 at Sheldrake Nov. 26. Bufflehead: 11 Cay L Oct. 30. Oldsquaw: female Elmira Nov. 17; 10 at Sheldrake Nov. 26. Red-breasted Merganser: female south end Cay L Sept. 28-Oct. 10.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: 6 migrating Clyde Oct. 17 and 1 Oct. 22. Hawks: Goshawk: 1 Elmira Oct. 18; 1 MNWR Nov. 1. Sharp-shinned: 9 individuals seen at Ithaca, Elmira and ThP. Cooper's: singles at ThP and Elmira; 2 around feeders at Watkins Glen. Red-shouldered: 1 ThP Sept. 18 only report. Broad-winged: ThP Sept. 8-22; 1 Ithaca Oct. 1. Rough-legged: reported from Myers Pt., Varick, Elmira, PY, Clyde and Altay; earliest Nov. 13. Marsh: 1-3 MNWR; singles at Pine City, Elmira, ThP, Hayt's Corners, Long Point; 10

reports from Watkins Glen. Osprey: 2 MNWR Sept.; singles at Elmira, ThP, Myers Pt. and LaMoka L. PEREGRINE: immatures at MNWR Sept. 6 and Oct. 10 and at Hayt's Corners Oct. 1. Merlin: 1 Seneca Army Depot Aug. 28 by Morgan Jones on his last birding excursion before transferring to Texas.

Virginia Rail: 7 MNWR Sept. 1. Sora: 15 MNWR Sept. 17. Am. Coot: 8,000 MNWR Oct. 30.

Shore birds: unless otherwise noted all records are from MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: max 105 Sept. 1. Killdeer: last 5 Myers Pt. Nov. 17. Am. Golden Plover: 1-20 thru Oct. 6; 1 Horseheads Oct. 9. Black-bellied Plover: 1-8 thru Oct. 6; 1 Horseheads Sept. 4-5 and Oct. 9. Ruddy Turnstone: 1-2 Sept. 5-19; 2 Horseheads Oct. 9. Com. Snipe: up to 30 in Sept.; 3 Ithaca Oct. 4. Spotted Sandpiper: 2 Myers Pt. Oct. 10 late. Greater Yellowlegs: 200 Sept. 19. Lesser Yellowlegs: 200 early Sept. Red Knot: 1 Sept. 18. Pectoral Sandpiper: up to 400 early Sept. White-rumped Sandpiper: 250 Sept. 5. Baird's Sandpiper: 1-11 thru Sept. 21. Least Sandpiper: 200 early Sept. Dunlin: 40 Sept. 24; 2 Horseheads Oct. 9; 2 Ithaca Oct. 28; 1 Myers Pt. Nov. 17. Short-billed Dowitcher: 110 Sept. 5. Long-billed Dowitcher: 35 Sept. 17 (FGS); 12 Waterloo dump Oct. 10. Stilt Sandpiper: up to 40 thru Sept. 21. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 500 Sept. 5. Western Sandpiper: 15 Sept. 9. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 1-2 Sept. 11-17. Hudsonian Godwit: 1-2 Sept. 11-20; 1 old Clyde River channel Savannah mucklands Sept. 19. Sanderling: 3-7 Sept. 3-17; 12 Ithaca Sept. 10. Wilson's Phalarope: 2 thru Sept. 18. Northern Phalarope: 5 thru Sept. 19.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1-5 reported from MNWR, Cay L and Seneca L. Herring Gull: 1000 MNWR Nov. 23. Ring-billed Gull: 200 Horseheads Oct. 24; 500 plus Waterloo dump thru. FORSTER'S TERN: 2 MNWR Sept. 2-5 (FGS, WEB *et al.*). Common Tern: 10 Elmira Oct. 8-9; 1 Ithaca Sept. 10. Caspian Tern: 1 MNWR Sept. 5.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Varick Sept. 6; 2 banded PY Sept. 29 and Oct. 3. Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 MNWR Sept. 1. Barn Owl: 3 young fledged in Sept. from nest in the Odessa Baptist church steeple. Barred Owl: 2 Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; 1 Ithaca Game Farm. Long-eared Owl: 1 Six Mile Creek (Steve Sabo). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Townsend Nov. Common Nighthawk: 100 plus migrating Elmira Sept. 8-9. Chimney Swift: 130 migrating ThP Sept. 8. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reports from MNWR, Elmira, Myers Pt., Hayt's Corners. Red-headed Woodpecker: Reeder's Creek, Seneca Co. thru; 3 migrating ThP Sept. 14.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 1 ThP Sept. 18 (Cay Bird Club). Swallows: Bank: small numbers only. Rough-winged: 200 Seneca River inlet Oct. 10 otherwise very few. Barn: 1 Ithaca Oct. 10. Cliff: 1 Ithaca Sept. 10 only report.

COMMON RAVEN: 1 Sugar Hill Schuyler Co. Nov. 11 (JB); hunters report hearing them call in the Monterey area. Com. Crow: 150 migrating Junius Ponds Seneca Co. Oct. 17 and 200 at Elmira Oct.-Nov. FISH CROW: 1 possible at Elmira Nov. 20 good description but no vocalizations (MW)\*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: few reports. Winter Wren: 1 Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary Oct. 16; 2 Ithaca Oct. 23; 1 Watkins Glen Nov. Carolina Wren: widely scattered reports. Short-billed Marsh Wren: thru Sept. 24 MNWR. Gray Catbird: "weak" bird near Burdett end of Nov. into Dec. (J. Bardeen). Brown Thrasher: 1 at Ithaca feeder late Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Ithaca Oct. 19; Lerch banded 26 PY. Eastern Bluebird: several reports from Elmira and Watkins Glen; no others. WHEATEAR: 1 south of Aurora Sept. 24 (Steve Sabo)\*. Water Pipit: 70 Ithaca Oct. 23. Cedar Waxwing: 350 banded PY (ML); widespread reports of small flocks. BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 5-10 with Cedar Waxwings at Branchport Nov. 27 (Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Burtch *fide* ML). N. Shrike: singles at Ithaca, Clyde, Long Pt. and Townsend from Nov. 6 on.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A small wave of vireos and warblers on Sept. 12 was detected at Clifton Springs and Elmira. Otherwise no waves were reported. There were no late departure dates noted. Lerch banded 23 species of warblers. Generally an unexciting migration.

Philadelphia Vireo: 17 banded by Lerch PY; singles Ithaca Oct. 3 and 19. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 banded PY by Lerch. Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Canada were the most frequently reported warblers. N. Waterthrush: 1 Reeder's Creek Sept. 5; 1 Ithaca Sept. 9. Com. Yellowthroat: some observers felt that numbers were down.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Eastern Meadowlark: scarce. N. Oriole: 1 Elmira eating grapes Nov. 2. Rusty Blackbird: Lerch banded but 1 at PY; many MNWR Nov. 2 Brown-headed Cowbird: 700 MNWR Sept. 5. Evening Grosbeak: 8 flying over Odessa Nov. 29; a few in Elmira. Purple Finch: a few at Ithaca and Elmira feeders. House Finch: at 3 PY feeders; Ithaca feeder numbers down; at 3 feeders, one with 12-15 birds, in Watkins Glen. Com. Redpoll: 1 at feeder Elmira Nov. 4. Pine Siskin: 2 Ithaca Oct. 16. Am. Goldfinch: flocks up to 100. Red Crossbill: 1 at feeder Odessa Nov. 29.

Sparrows: Savannah: only 6 reports. Vesper: 1 MNWR Oct. 4 only report. Dark-eyed Junco: good migration. Tree Sparrow: first Nov. 4 Clyde; good numbers but mostly singles or small flocks. White-crowned: first Ithaca Oct. 2; immature banded PY Nov. 29. White-throated: Sept. 18 thru; good movement. Fox: 1 Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Oct. 17; 1 Clifton Springs Oct. 23. Lincoln's: 1 MNWR Sept. 1 a month early; 1 Ithaca Oct. 3. Snow Bunting: first MNWR Oct. 18, sighted at Clifton Springs, Myers Pt. and a max of 100 at Lowman Nov. 21 (Kay Fudge).

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## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

ELIZABETH WASHBURN for LESLIE BEMONT

Fall was progressively colder than normal, from  $1.6^{\circ}$  C ( $3^{\circ}$  F) lower in September to  $4^{\circ}$  C ( $7^{\circ}$  F) in November, just opposite from the fall of 1975. Precipitation was higher than normal in September and October, with heavy rain on the 9th contributing most of the excess 8.4 cm. (3.3 in.) that fell in October. November was a bit drier than usual, with 2.5 cm. (1 in.) below normal, and only occasional light snowfalls until late in the month. However, there was no noticeable early influx of northern birds as a result of the wintry weather. Unusual species for the period were: Black Scoter, Short-billed Dowitcher, Barred Owl and Long-eared Owl.

Observers: Leslie Bemont (LB), Mildred Clark (MC), Gail Corderman (GC), Anna and Marilyn Davis (A,MD), Mary Dobinsky (MD), Sadie Dorber (SD), Elva Hawken (EH), Claude Howard (CH), Cindy Kirch (CK), Margaret Layton, Robert Leahy, Arthur Levy (AL), Rick Marsi (RM), Leona McDowell (LM), E. McVinney (EM), Kay Perkins (KP), Mary Sheffield (MS), Elizabeth Washburn (EW), Cora Wellman (CW), Beryl Wilson, Kathryn Wilson (KW), Irene Wright (IW), "Weed Walkers" (WW).

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Common Loon: 1 Goodyear Lake Oct. 22 (IW); 2 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 (MD,KW). Red-necked Grebe: 1 Milford Sept. 18 (MD,CW). Pied-billed Grebe: several. Green Heron: last report Oct. 2. Whistling Swan: 1 Portlandville Nov. 27 (MD,KW). Canada Goose: 25 Greenwood Park (RM); 49 Whitney Point (MS), last report. Green-winged Teal: 1 Milford Pond Nov. 27 (MD,KW), last report. Canvasback: Whitney Point Nov. 20 (A,MD). Bufflehead: Whitney Point Nov. 13 (A,MD). Oldsquaw: 4 Whitney Point Oct. 27 (WW). **BLACK SCOTER:** 14 Goodyear Lake Oct. 11 (IW). Common Merganser: Whitney Point Nov. 13 (A,MD). Red-breasted Merganser: many Whitney Point Oct. 27 (WW).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: 19 Delhi Oct. 10-18 (MC); 19 Meredith Oct. 10 (IW) prob same ones. 3 Otsego Co. Nov. 29 (MD,KW). Cooper's Hawk: 3 Otsego Co. (MD, CW). Red-tailed Hawk: scattered reports thruout period. Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Otsego Co. Sept. 11 only report (MD,CW,KW). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Otsego Co. Nov. 20 only report (MD,KW). Osprey: 7 reports from late Aug. to Oct. 9, all but 1 in Otsego Co. Am. Coot: 1 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 only report (MD,KW). Killdeer: Otsego Lake Nov. 14 last report (MD,KW). Am. Woodcock: 1 banded Vestal Sept. 30 (EH); Otsego Co. Oct. 25 (MC). Common Snipe: several; 1 Milford Pond Nov. 27 last report (MD,KW). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 Greenwood Park Oct. 14-Nov. 6 (RM). **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** 5 Greenwood Park Oct. 17 and 25 (RM). Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 1 Greenwood Park Nov. 2 (RM). Dunlin: 5 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 6 Greenwood Park Nov. 2 (RM). Ring-billed Gull: 29 Whitney Point Oct. 17 (MS); 50 Otsego Lake Nov. 14 (MD,KW).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Vestal Center Aug. 26 (EW); 1 Vestal Center Sept. 13 (SD). Screech Owl: 5 reports. Great Horned Owl: 5 reports. **BARRED OWL:** 1 heard Delhi Oct. 10-Nov. 20 (MC). **LONG-EARED OWL:** 1 Ingraham Hill Nov. 21-28 (CH). Com. Nighthawk: Sept. 12 last date. Chimney Swift: Chenango Forks regularly to Sept. 8 (A,MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sept. 23 last report. Common Flicker: Nov. 15 last report. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 reports.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Eastern Kingbird: 7 reports. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: several reports, last Sept. 19. *Empidonax* (sp?): 1 Delhi Sept. 28 (MC). Least Flycatcher: Sept. 15 last report. E. Wood Pewee: Sept. 27 last report. Horned Lark: 20 Delhi Nov. 11 (LM); 18 Milford Nov. 13 (MD,KW). Rough-winged Swallow: 18 Otsego Co. Sept. 4 (MD, CW,KW). Barn Swallow: Sept. 11 last report. Tufted Titmouse: 12 reports, mostly in Endicott-Vestal area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 13 reports. Brown Creeper: 11 reports. House Wren: Oct. 10 last report. Winter Wren: 1 Delhi Oct. 17 (MC); 1 Vestal Oct. 30 (GC). Carolina Wren: 1 Portlandville Oct. 30 (MD,KW); 2 Vestal Oct. 30 (GC); 1 Endwell Nov. 6 (LB); 1 Oneonta Nov. 18 (IW); 1 Delhi Nov. 9-27 (EM); 2 Port Dickinson Nov. 29 (KP). Mockingbird: thruout region thruout period. Gray Catbird: Oct. 10 last report. Hermit Thrush: 6 reports. Swainson's Thrush: many reports Sept. 5-Oct. 5; Oneonta Nov. 6 last report (IW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 3 Vestal Sept. 20 and Sept. 30, Oct. 5, all banded (EH). Veery: 4 reports. E. Bluebird: 7 reports, last Oct. 16. Golden-crowned Kinglet: many reports to Nov. 12. Water Pipit: 30 Delhi Oct. 10 (MC); 8 Greenwood Park Oct. 14, 6 Oct. 17 (RM); 40 Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW); 20 Milford Oct. 30 (MD,KW). Cedar Waxwing: several small flocks during period. Northern Shrike: 1 Milford Nov. 6 (MD,KW). Starling: 300+ Milford Oct. 23 (MD,KW).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Chenango Forks to Sept. 21 (A,MD). Solitary Vireo: 8 reports. Red-eyed Vireo: Oct. 10 last report. Philadelphia Vireo: 5 reports. Warbling Vireo: 2 reports. Tennessee Warbler: many reports to Oct. 5. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 10 (EH). Nashville Warbler: many reports to Oct. 10. N. Parula: 1 Milford Sept. 4 (MD,KW); 1 Crumhorn Lake Sept. 25 (MD,CW). Magnolia Warbler: many reports to Oct. 5. Cape May Warbler: 12 reports, all Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Oct. 11 last report (GC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Binghamton Nov. 26 last report (AL). Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 5 last report (EH). Blackburnian Warbler: 7 reports. Bay-breasted Warbler: 7 Sept. 15 Vestal Center (SD); 19 other reports. Blackpoll Warbler: 17 reports, 5 Vestal Oct. 17 last (GC). Palm Warbler: Milford Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW); 2 banded Vestal Oct. 5 (EH). Ovenbird: 1 banded Vestal Oct. 5 last report (EH). Northern Waterthrush: Aug. 19 only report. Connecticut Warbler: 2 Sept. 5, 1 Sept. 7, 2 Sept. 14, all banded Vestal (EH). Mourning Warbler: 1 Vestal Sept. 17 (GC). Wilson's Warbler: 10 reports. Canada Warbler: 9 reports. American Redstart: 15 Otsego Co. Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW); 6 other reports.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 20 Milford Nov. 13 (MD,KW). Red-winged Blackbird: 2000 Portlandville Sept. 18 (MD,CW). Northern Oriole: 1 Milford Ctr. Nov. 14 (MD,CW, Dr. Massati); 1 Port Dickinson Nov. 29 (KP). Brown-headed Cowbird: Binghamton Nov. 30 last report (AL). House Finch: thruout period. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 pair Oneonta from Nov. 21 (Vermilyea's). Savannah Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 4, 2 Sept. 11 (MD,CW,KW) only reports. Vesper Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 25 (MD,CW); 1 Delhi Sept. 30 (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: 4-10 Oneonta Sept. 4 (IW); 20 Milford Sept. 11 (MD,CW, KW); 1-15 Delhi Sept. 12-Nov. 15 (MC). Tree Sparrow: 2 Milford Oct. 30 (MD,KW). Chipping Sparrow: 22 banded Vestal Oct. 10, last report (EH). Field Sparrow: 1 Colliersville Nov. 13 last report (MD,KW). White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Milford Sept. 25 (MD,CW); 1-10 Delhi Sept. 30-Oct. 29 (MC). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Milford Sept. 11 (dead) (MD, CW,KW); 1-5 Delhi Sept. 12 and regularly thereafter thruout period (MC). Fox Sparrow: 1 banded Endwell Oct. 24 only report (LB). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Vestal Sept. 2 (GC); 1 Vestal Center Sept. 26 (SD); 1 Binghamton Sept. 30 (dead) (LB); 1 Choconut Oct. 2 and Oct. 16 (MS). Swamp Sparrow: Whitney Point Sept. 12 (MS); 1 Binghamton Oct. 17.

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## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Into every life, even a birder's, a little rain must fall—but this is ridiculous! By November 20, Syracuse had achieved an all-time high of precipitation (56 inches) and we still had the snowy month of "Bah! Humbug!" to go. Repeated cool spells in September sent vireos, warblers, swallows, and flycatchers rushing thru with the best flights September 4-6, 16-17, and 27-28. September 30 thru October 6 produced a massive flight of creepers, wrens, thrushes, kinglets, juncos, and sparrows and for one glorious week, the landscape, particularly the Ontario Lakeplain, seemed alive with fall migrants. Then ferocious weather with howling northwest winds and bitter cold, even snow, by mid-October literally blasted everything southward. The cold northwest winds undoubtedly helped those observers hunting jaegers along Lake Ontario but trying to study the few small land birds that persisted through such gales was harder than putting pajamas on a greased elephant. November proved even colder and snowier (22 inches of that stuff); correspondingly the month seemed quite thin for land birds and were it not for a residue of grebes, ducks, gulls, and hawks, November would have been a birding disaster. By late November, the local half-hardies were not just hard to find, they weren't there at all.

An interesting feature of birding this fall concerned feeding assemblages of the various species—warblers and vireos in insect-rich alder-willow tickets or in birch clumps infested with leaf miner; kinglets and phoebes in unharvested pear orchards; thrushes, tanagers, and grosbeaks gorging on the fruiting clusters of pokeberry and various dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) in the brushy fields and woodlots; and most strikingly, the droves of sparrows, a foison of fringillids, in the weedy or abandoned croplands of the Lakeplain. If you found such feeding assemblages, the birding was great but large tracts between seemed devoid of birds.

Positives for the fall include 1) an early but brief Canada Goose flight; 2) an increase in Wood Duck numbers; 3) good numbers of Dunlins; 4) a strong jaeger flight; 5) an array of rarer gulls; 6) an excellent flight of northwoods species—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Winter Wren; 7) a very heavy thrush flight, especially of Hermit Thrush; 8) a very heavy migration of both kinglets; 9) an incursion of Northern Shrikes; 10) above

average warbler numbers on the Lakeplain but not in the southern highlands; 11) a heavy sparrow migration but, again like the warblers, much more pronounced on the Lakeplain than in the hill country south of Syracuse; and 12) further increase and/or spread in Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren.

Negatives for the season include 1) very few herons, particularly American Bittern; 2) poor waterfowl counts and this in almost all species; 3) no incursion of Rough-legged Hawks and only a few Snowy Owls; 4) reduced numbers of shore birds, primarily because of the minimal habitat available; 5) reduced numbers of all swallows (also other aerial insectivores) but some surprisingly late dates for same; 6) persistently reduced numbers of Eastern Bluebirds; 7) lower numbers of some few warbler species, e.g., Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers; 8) no winter finch flight; 9) reduced tallies of Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos throughout November; and 10) continued drop in numbers of Horned Larks.

Fall rarities include Louisiana Heron, Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, all three phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Little and Franklin's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, and White-winged Crossbill.

Observers—D. W. Ackley, G. & M. Church, K. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, B. & D. DeSimone, G. Huggins, L. & A. Leidwinger, P. & S. Paquette, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, R. & S. White.

Compilers—P. A. DeBenedictis, G. Huggins, L. & A. Leidwinger—my abundant thanks to them for making my job easier.

Abbreviations: DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FH—Fair Haven; HIGMA—Howlands Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; L—Lake; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; Onon—Onondaga; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; twship—Township.

Please have winter reports (1 December 1976 thru 28 February 1977) in by 7 March 1977. Thanks.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 46 DH Oct. 17; present to end of period. Horned Grebe: arr Sept. 16 one Dempster Beach (early); max only 75 (low) Oct. 24 DH to FH. Double-crested Cormorant: max 64, a regional high count, Sept. 6 SP.

Great Blue Heron: max 17 Sept. 24 near Eaton; all other tallies one-ten/day so actually rather scarce. Green Heron: scarce thru fall—max only seven Sept. 5 Oneida L; last noted Oct. 1 one Pompey (a very early dep date). LOUISIANA HERON: an imm Sept. 12 Sage Creek at L Ontario (M. S. Rusk) is the first regional record. Great Egret: scarce with singles only for fall—one each at Baldwinsville and Utica Marsh in Sept. American Bittern: incredibly scarce—only five individuals for entire fall—has virtually vanished in the past three years.

Mute Swan: an ad at SSSP Oct. 17-Nov. 7; where are these birds coming from? -?? Lake Michigan, Long Island?? Canada Goose: arr Sept. 16 31 DH; max 4800 Oct. 3 DH and 1551 Oct. 10 Oneida; scarce thru remainder of fall with less than 100-500/day noted; the birds now appear to be leapfrogging this area in the fall migration. Brant: very poor flight—max only 900 DH Oct. 24 and 200 Oct. 18 SP; overland flight evident with 17 Oct. 16 at Oneida Hawk Lookout.

The paucity of virtually all ducks for the entire area from all observers is impressive; listed below are the max for the various species—Mallard 540 SP-SSSP Nov. 7; Black Duck 250 SP-SSSP Nov. 7 (should be in the low thousands); Gadwall 46 FH Nov. 14; Pintail 100 DH Oct. 7; Green-winged Teal 20 TRGMA Nov. 6; Blue-winged Teal 100 Clay Swamp Oct.

5; American Wigeon 245 Beaver L-FH Oct. 1; N. Shoveler 20 Brewerton Oct. 28; Wood Duck—definitely increased locally—202 Oct. 2 Lacona and 370 Clay Swamp Oct. 5. Diving Duck numbers were even worse than the dabblers—Redhead 57 Beaver L Oct. 16 and 190 FH Nov. 14; Ring-necked Duck 100 Beaver L Oct. 5 (should be in the 300 to 400 range); Canvasback 180 FH Nov. 14; Greater Scaup 1200 DH Nov. 20; Common Goldeneye 400 DH-SSSP Nov. 4; Oldsquaw 370 DH Oct. 21; White-winged Scoter 258 DH Oct. 10; Surf Scoter 310 Oct. 10 DH; Black Scoter 35 (very low) DH Oct. 10; Ruddy Duck 20 Beaver L Oct. 28; Hooded Merganser 100 Beaver L Nov. 23; Common Merganser 125 Beaver L Nov. 23; and Red-breasted Merganser 1000 DH-SSSP-SP Nov. 7 (should be in the multiple thousands). Rarer ducks for the fall include a female **HARLEQUIN DUCK** Nov. 20 at DH and three **COMMON EIDERS**, two females and an imm male at SP Sept. 12 (FGS), the latter only the fourth regional record.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Extensive observations at the Oneida Hawk Lookout Aug. 10 to Nov. 7, primarily by Belle and Sheila Peebles and Dorothy Crumb amassed a wealth of data re migrant raptors—below are the species totals for the season followed by the daily max with date of same—Turkey Vulture six, three Sept. 28; Goshawk four, two Sept. 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 660, 120 Oct. 10; Cooper's Hawk 21, six Oct. 10; Red-tailed Hawk 287, 86 Oct. 26; Red-shouldered Hawk 58, 25 Oct. 17; Broad-winged Hawk 3053, 2556 Sept. 12; Rough-legged Hawk six, five Nov. 2; Golden Eagle one Oct. 18; Marsh Hawk 61, ten Oct. 10; Osprey 36, six each Sept. 18 & 21; Merlin two singles only; American Kestrel 133, 51 Sept. 28; plus 125 unidentified hawks; as yet no consistent correlation has been established for wind conditions and the appearance of migrating raptors at this lookout—it is definitely not uniformly associated with northwest winds. Rough-legged Hawk: very scarce thru fall—one-two/day with most observers failing to find the species.

Shore bird habitat except for occasional flooded fields was nil in Sept. and Oct.; only the Sandy Pond Inlet and the east end of Oneida L had consistent numbers of shore birds but the human use of both areas has resulted in much disturbance and the numbers of shore birds at such places shifts markedly from day to day. Maxima for shore birds were somewhat low and early departure dates, i.e., early to mid-Oct., were the rule; following are the max and dep dates—Semipalmated Plover 30 Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 28 one SPI; Killdeer 95 each (low) Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout and Oct. 4 Pulaski-Phoenix; A. Golden Plover 13 (very low) SP Sept. 16, Oct. 28 one SPI; Black-bellied Plover seven each Oct. 5 Onon L and Oct. 18 SP, Nov. 7 two SPI; Ruddy Turnstone 20 Sept. 13 Sylvan Beach, Nov. 14 one FH (late); Common Snipe 30 (low) Oct. 11 Clay Swamp, Nov. 14 one FH; Spotted Sandpiper five Sept. 5 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 1 one FH; Greater Yellowlegs 30 Oct. 7 SPI, Nov. 14 one FH; Lesser Yellowlegs 21 (ridiculously low) Sept. 15 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 7 (very early) three Sylvan Beach; Red Knot three each Sept. 18 Sylvan Beach and Oct. 7 SPI, the latter also the last date; Pectoral Sandpiper 18 Sept. 26 Sylvan Beach and again 18 HIGMA Oct. 3, Nov. 7 three Sage Creek; White-rumped Sandpiper 11, all imm, Oct. 28 SPI, Nov. 11 two SPI; Baird's Sandpiper six Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 4 (very early) two SPI; Least Sandpiper 18 (very low) Sept. 8 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 10 one Sylvan Beach; Dunlin 720 (an excellent tally) Oct. 7 SPI, Nov. 14 singles SPI and Sylvan Beach; Short-billed Dowitcher singles only; Stilt Sandpiper two Sept. 25-28 Sylvan Beach with Sept. 28 last date there; Semipalmated Sandpiper 125 Sept. 5 Sylvan Beach, Oct. 28 four SPI; Sanderling 70 each Sept. 12 at both SPI and Sylvan Beach, last noted Nov. 11, ten, FH.

Rarer shorebirds: **WHIMBREL:** one Sept. 16 SPI, the usual fall single; **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** first arrival Oct. 7 (a record arrival date) one SPI with a total of seven individuals, mostly SPI, for fall but none from FH, normally the most predictable locale for them. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 19 on Oct. 7 SPI is an all time regional max but unfortunately the only report of the season. **RED PHALAROPE:** seven DH Oct. 22, last noted Nov. 7 two SPI. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** four DH Oct. 21 with one-two/day at SPI and Sylvan Beach. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one Sept. 24-26 Sylvan Beach, quite late.

**POMARINE JAEGER:** one imm with Parasitic Jaeger adult Oct. 14 only report.  
**PARASITIC JAEGER:** a spectacular flight this fall—max 31 Oct. 10 DH with over 50 birds total at that much birded, much favored site; last noted Nov. 20 two imm DH.

Great Black-backed Gull: 102 Nov. 28 SPI, a large number for so early in the winter—and it was winter! Ring-billed Gull: 1700 (very low) Nov. 14 FH—Oswego. Bonaparte's Gull: max 120 (actually a high count for this area) Nov. 7 SPI. **LITTLE GULL:** a fantastic fall for this species—18 individuals for the season with max three Sept. 20 SPI—most regularly reported from SPI and DH but two adults and an imm showed up at Sylvan Beach this fall where they have been previously recorded only once before. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** six individuals (usually only one/fall) with two each Sept. 23 and again Oct. 2 at SPI. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** the gull this fall—first noted was an imm Oct. 9 DH (Steve Sabo) which is also a record arrival date; subsequently one-three/day at either SPI, SSSP, or DH with max three imm Nov. 7, 11, & 14 and single ad Oct. 17 and again Nov. 18—at least ten individuals and perhaps as many as 14 birds in this flight.

Common Tern: max 176 Sept. 5 DH—scarce otherwise. **FORSTER'S TERN:** singles Sept. 5 DH and again Sept. 9 and 12 SPI, a thin movement for this species, especially in view of all the fancy smaller gulls that showed up.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Neither cuckoo reported after Sept. 1. Snowy Owl: first noted two Nov. 26 Syr. Airport, definitely not a flight year.

Belted Kingfisher: one-two/day thru Nov., surprising in view of the marked cold of that period. Common Flicker: max 82 (low) Sept. 23 SP-SSSP. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 34 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP, a sharp peak but Oct. numbers thereafter very low (two-four/day).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Eastern Phoebe: fall tallies quite low—one-five/day?—hit by the cold weather of spring and summer?—none in Nov. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: all totaled five singles Sept. 12-21.

Horned Lark: quite scarce this fall—max only 55 Nov. 5 Malby near Port Ontario.

Swallow departure dates—Tree Swallow last noted Nov. 11 four Hoag Rd.; Bank Swallow Oct. 2 one Port Ontario; Rough-winged Swallow Oct. 4 one SP (very late); Barn Swallow Sept. 26 three SSSP; Cliff Swallow Sept. 11 one L. Ontario; Purple Martin Sept. 12 one DH (very early).

Blue Jay: 80-90/day in first week of Oct., lesser numbers thereafter—where are the thousands of the spring flights each fall? Common Crow: no heavy movements noted—200-400/day between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, both at LOL and at Oneida Hawk Lookout. **COMMON RAVEN:** one heard and seen Oct. 21 DH, only the sixth recent record. Tufted Titmouse: a new location is SSSP Oct. 17-31.

White-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce in Nov.—one-three/day only, with some days none whatever detected. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 100 Nov. 27 Fabius Twshp; not noted in large numbers as migrants however. Brown Creeper: large flight—78 Sept. 30 SP, in many cases individual birds were scaling the wooden walls of cabins and outhouses looking for insect food. House Wren: max 30 Sept. 6 SP-SSSP-Phoenix, early for the main movement. Winter Wren: heavy but brief flight—50 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP. Carolina Wren: six new sites located and these sites as far apart as FH and the cabin areas on the east shore of SP. Mockingbird: four new sites—HIGMA, Victory, N. Syr., Baldwinsville—but still very scarce in the hill country south of Syr. Gray Catbird: fall peak Sept. 11-Oct. 1 with 16-22/day; last noted Oct. 7 (early departure) one Pompey. American Robin: 500-700/day in first week of Oct.; very scarce thru remainder of Oct. and even scarcer (one-20/day) thru Nov. Hermit Thrush: tremendous fall flight with max 66 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP with counts of 20-40/day in the next ten days. Swainson's Thrush: max 26 Sept. 26 Pulaski, the majority feeding in a huge patch of pokeberry; TV tower kill 16 Sept. 27-28 at Syr. with Gray-cheeked Thrush 18 in that same kill; max live Gray-cheeked Thrush 14 Oct. 1 Hannibal-FH; last noted were Swainson's

Thrush Oct. 16 one Beaver L and Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct. 4 four SP-SSSP-Chedmardo, both somewhat early departure dates. Eastern Bluebird: another thin fall for this species—one-three/day only.

A terrific fall for kinglets with major flights beginning Sept. 30 with 410 Golden-crowned and 530 Ruby-crowned Kinglets that date SP-SSSP; reported in the hundreds thereafter thru Oct. 15, then a sharp drop in numbers in the next three days—a heavy but early movement. Water Pipit: 600 Oct. 2 SP, 300 Oct. 4 SP dunes, 300 Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout; a few birds lingered to mid-Nov. but left with the first persisting ground snow.

Northern Shrike: record arrival date Oct. 15 one Syr (FGS); total sightings for fall are Oct. two and for Nov. 24 individuals.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO:** an imm Sept. 25 near Bridgeport, first fall record (G. Huggins, FGS). Solitary Vireo: max 14 Sept. 26 LOL; lesser counts in first week of Oct.; dep date Nov. 14 (very late) one Shackleton Pt., Oneida L (C. G. Spies), Philadelphia Vireo: twelve (a high count) Sept. 16 SP-SSSP; also five in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28 and five Sept. 6 Split Rock west of Syr.

The following paragraphs *re* warblers give the maxima and the departure dates for most of the species—note the somewhat above average numbers and the peculiar clusters of very early and very late departure dates, a grouping inexplicable in the face of the severe and early cold weather this fall—Tennessee Warbler max 48 Sept. 16 Onondaga Creek, last Oct. 13 three Pompey; Orange-crowned Warbler three Oct. 3 Hannibal-FH, Oct. 13 one Pompey; Nashville Warbler ten Oct. 1 LOL, Nov. 2 (record late date for region) one Syr; Northern Parula: six (poor) Sept. 16 SP, Oct. 6 (early) one Pompey; Magnolia Warbler 52 Sept. 16 SP-SSSP, 15 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, last Oct. 6 (early) one Pompey; Cape May Warbler 24 Sept. 4 SP and again Sept. 17 Hannibal-FH, Oct. 4 one Chedmardo; Black-throated Blue Warbler big TV tower kill 40 Sept. 27-28 but live bird counts this fall really thin—max four Sept. 30 LOL with last Oct. 5 two Pompey; Yellow-rumped Warbler 100-150/day, max 175 Sept. 16 (early for peak) SP-SSSP, present to Nov. 21 one Hannibal; Black-throated Green Warbler max 43 Sept. 21 Pompey, last Oct. 13 (early) one Pompey; Blackburnian Warbler seven (low) Sept. 6 LOL, Oct. 1 (early) one Hannibal Twshp; Chestnut-sided Warbler eight Sept. 4 LOL, Oct. 1 one each Pompey and near Hannibal; Bay-breasted Warbler excellent fall flight—28 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, 68 Sept. 4 LOL, last Oct. 4 one Pompey; Blackpoll Warbler 27 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling, Oct. 7 (early) one Sylvan Beach; Pine Warbler nine individuals for fall, above the average number.

Ovenbird 41 in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, live bird max 15 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling; last noted Oct. 2 (very early) one Waterville; Mourning Warbler singles only Sept. 9-Sept. 17 (very early); Common Yellowthroat 47 (very high) in TV tower kill Sept. 27-28, live birds 28 Sept. 4 LOL, last Oct. 24 one DH; Wilson's Warbler nine (low) Sept. 2 SP, Oct. 2 one SP; Canada Warbler max ten Sept. 6 SP-SSSP, last Sept. 20 two SP-SSSP; American Redstart 30 Sept. 2 SP-SSSP, last Sept. 29 (early) one Syr. The only rare warbler for the fall was CONNECTICUT WARBLER—singles Sept. 28 Pompey, Oct. 2 FH, and one tower killed bird Sept. 27-28.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Eastern Meadowlark: fall max a miserable 28 Oct. 10 Oneida Hawk Lookout—scarce throughout the fall. Red-winged Blackbird: fall max 15,000 Oct. 17 DH; the big roost at Clay Swamp never materialized this year. Northern Oriole: scarce—one-two/day to Sept. 15, a very early dep date. Rusty Blackbird: fall max 350 Oct. 5 Hannibal-Lysander; hundreds to mid-Oct., scarce thereafter with early departure, much as the insectivorous warblers did.

Scarlet Tanager: max 28 Sept. 4 SP-SSSP, early for such a large number; last noted Oct. 13 (slightly late) one Pompey.

Winter finches were sought for and found only in minuscule numbers—a non-flight winter if there ever was one. Evening Grosbeak: first noted Nov. 8 one Pompey, max 60 Nov. 27 near Fabius but most observers had none. Purple Finch: scarce—two-11/day thru Nov. Pine Siskin: three individuals for the fall—a nice trio, but hardly a flight. American Goldfinch: hundreds thru early Oct.; then exodus of this local cardueline with a few, mighty few (two-15/day) in Nov. to remind us of their abundant summer numbers. Pine Grosbeak, Redpoll, and Red Crossbill—none. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** two Sept. 16 SSSP and again two Nov. 19 near Fabius—?strays, flight prelude, avian tantalizers, crazy, mixed-up kids?

A tremendous influx of sparrows in the last week of Sept. and the first week of Oct. served as compensation for the reduced numbers of shore birds, swallows, and bluebirds. Weedy fields, particularly fields waist-high in ragweed, pigweed, and various *Chenopodium*, exploded with sparrows, goldfinches, and juncos; hedgerows positively twitched with excited sparrows if you did a little spishing or Screech Owl whistling. Fall maxima follow but the actual maxima could have been much higher if one could spish incessantly thru an eight hour birding day. Savannah Sparrow 27 Sept. 26 Dempster Beach; Vesper Sparrow 15 Oct. 17 Oneida Hawk Lookout; Dark-eyed Junco 180 Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Tree Sparrow 75 (low) Nov. 3 Pompey; Chipping Sparrow 36 Sept. 17 Hannibal-Sterling; Field Sparrow 26 Oct. 2 Hollis Road; White-crowned Sparrow 180 Oct. 2 Hollis Rd.; White-throated Sparrow 650 Sept. 30 SP-SSSP and 650 again Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Lincoln's Sparrow 13 Oct. 1 Hannibal-Sterling; Swamp Sparrow 36 Oct. 3 Hannibal-HIGMA; Song Sparrow 280 Oct. 4 SP-SSSP-Chedmardo. As inundating as the flight of sparrows was, no rare species were discovered within it. Lapland Longspur: one Sept. 6 SPI (FGS, L. Leidwinger) is a record arr date for the region and the state. Snow Bunting: fall numbers rather thin—max 600 Nov. 20 near Wampsville but most flocks only 20-60/day.

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Fall of 1976 carried thru from summer—cool and wet. Temperatures ranged from 70° F (21° C) to the low 20° F (-6° C). Signs of an early and possible hard winter were evident before the end of the period with snowfall at higher elevations as early as October.

Waterfowl migrated early, raptors showed improvement, shore-birding was excellent, regional records were set, but winter finches were slow or non-existent.

Outstanding observations included in the period were: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebes, Ruddy Duck, Merlin, Whimbrel, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Laughing & Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Localities: BRB—Black River Bay; ED—El Dorado; LWMA—Lakeview W.M.A.; PP—Pillar Point; Pt. P—Point Peninsula; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; SNP—Snowshoe Point; SP—Stony Point; WHWMA—Wilson Hill W.M.A.; ULLWMA—Upper & Lower Lakes W.M.A.

Contributors: Russ Biss; Richard Brouse; Matt Brown; Tom L. and Cathy Carrolan; Lee B. Chamberlaine; Frank Clinch; Marada Johnson; Joe Lamendola; Gerry A. Smith; Ted Smith; Joe A. VanRiet; Robt. C. & June Walker.

*Corrigenda*: Vol. XXVI No. 3, pg. 171, after Bonaparte's Gull insert **FORSTER'S TERN**: 1 Alexandria Bay Aug. 12 (Gerry A. Smith). Omission by Regional Editor.

**LOONS-DUCKS**: Com. Loon: 1 Chaumont Bay Sept. 12; 4 ED Oct. 8; 6 Pt. P Oct. 24; 4 ED to SP Oct. 30; numerous other reports single individuals. **RED-THROATED LOON**: 1 Sherwins Bay Nov. 12 (RCW). **RED-NECKED GREBE**: 2 Cape Vincent to Clayton Oct. 30 (TLC). Horned Grebe: 11 RMPD Sept. 25; 21 Pt. P Oct. 24; seemed to be everywhere. Double-crested Cormorant: 6 ED Sept. 12; 6 ED Sept. 14; 8 ED Sept. 18; 12 ED Sept. 19; 14 ED Oct. 3; 8 SP Oct. 15-late. Great Blue Heron: numbers up—seen thru. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 SP Sept. 18; 2 LWMA Sept. 18; numbers up.

**Canada Goose**: movement started Sept. 20. **Snow Goose**: 1 small flock 20+ Chaumont Nov. 2 (Ted Smith). **Mallard**: 300 BRB Nov. 6; numbers up. **Black Duck**: 200 BRB Nov. 6; numbers up at PRWMA. **Black x Mallard hybrid**: 17 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; becoming more common. **Gadwall**: 134 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 246 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; becoming more common. **Pintail**: 86 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 29 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Green-winged Teal**: 23 ED Sept. 18; 161 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; **Blue-winged Teal**: 299 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 24 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Am. Wigeon**: 271 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 252 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19—numbers up. **No. Shoveler**: 21 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 1 RMSP Nov. 27. **Wood Duck**: 215 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 2 Dexter Oct. 28. **Redhead**: 2 Pt. P. Nov. 11; 7 PP Oct. 13; 39 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Ring-necked Duck**: 1000+ ULLWMA Nov. 4 (Joe Lamendola); 13 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 23 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Canvasback**: 26 Pt. P Nov. 2; 22 ED Oct. 8; 3 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Greater Scaup**: 4200 Pt. P Oct. 24; 4000 BRB Nov. 2; 5000 BRB Nov. 6. **Lesser Scaup**: 5 WHWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19; 9 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Com. Goldeneye**: 15 ED to SP Oct. 30; 94 ED Nov. 6; 300 SP Nov. 2; 240 ED Nov. 20; 475 ED Nov. 21. **Bufflehead**: 5 Pt. P Oct. 24; 8 Pt. **Salubrious** Nov. 13; 12 Pt. P Nov. 2; **Oldsquaw**: 1 ED Sept. 5; 7 SP Oct. 15; 10 SP Nov. 2. **White-winged Scoter**: 12 SP Oct. 15; 12 SP Nov. 2; 4 Pt. **Salubrious** Nov. 13. **Surf Scoter**: 6 ED Oct. 3; 70 ED Oct. 8; 2 Pt. P Oct. 24 (TLC). **Black Scoter**: 22 ULLWMA Sept. 27 (Russ Biss); 3 ED Oct. 3; 18 PP Oct. 18; 28 Cape Vincent to Clayton Oct. 30 (TLC); 5 Pt. P Nov. 2; 9 ED Nov. 14. **Ruddy Duck**: 3 WHWMA Sept. 11 (JAV); 4 PRWMA Oct. 6-Nov. 19. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 1 SP to SNP Sept. 11; 8 ED Sept. 12; 10 Ransom Rd. Sept. 19; 1000's near Stony Island Oct. 15 (LBC); 35 Pt. P Oct. 24.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **Goshawk**: 1 imm Wellesley Isl Sept. 18; 1 imm ED Nov. 6 (TLC); 1 ad male Sackets Hbr Nov. 8 (TLC). **Sharp-shinned**: 2 (1 male, 1 female) Blake Sanctuary Oct. 3; 1 male Brownville Sept. 15; 1 Henderson Sept. 16; 2 Sulfur Springs Rd. Sept. 25 all (TLC); 4 Massena-Morristown Sept. 18 (GAS). **Cooper's Hawk**: 1 Massena Sept. 19 (GAS). **Red-tailed**: 1 Oct. 13; 4 Oct. 30; 3 Nov. 11. **Broad-winged**: 30 to 40 over Watertown Sept. 16 (RCW). **Rough-legged**: 1 near Massena Sept. 18 (GAS)—early; 1 light phase Oct. 30; 2 Nov. 13 (1 lp 1 dp); 4 Pt. P Nov. 21 (2 of each phase). **BALD EAGLE**: 1 junct 180 & 12F Sept. 17—probably 2nd yr. bird due to mottled black & white breast & belly (TLC). **Marsh Hawk**: max 9 Chaumont Bay Nov. 2 (RCW); 19 other birds reported during period—encouraging. **Osprey**: 1 Limerick Sept. 14; 1 LWMA Sept. 18; 1 WHWMA Sept. 18; 1 Kring's Pt. Sept. 18; 1 ED Oct. 4. **MERLIN**: 1 ED Sept. 18 (RCW); 1 ED Oct. 8 (TLC). **Am. Kestrel**: thru period.

**Ruffed Grouse**: thru—numbers still up. **Gray Partridge**: 5 Pt. P Oct. 24; 6 Cape Vincent to Clayton Oct. 30; 11 Limerick to Pt. **Salubrious** Nov. 13 (TLC); a slight increase is evident in prime habitat areas (LBC). **Com. Gallinule**: 100 LWMA Sept. 18 (RCW).

**Seipalmated Plover**: 1 PP Oct. 13 last. **Am. Golden Plover**: 3 Rome State Rd. Oct. 4; 31 near Dexter Oct. 25—max and last (TLC). **Black-bellied Plover**: 1 ED Sept. 2; max 14 near Dexter Oct. 12; last—1 Pt. **Salubrious** Nov. 13. **Ruddy Turnstone**: 6 ED Sept. 2; 3 ED Sept. 14; 2 ED Sept. 18; last—2 ED Sept. 25. **Am. Woodcock**: thru to Nov. 4. **Com. Snipe**: 30 Rome State Rd. Oct. 4; last 1 Chaumont Bay Nov. 2. **WHIMBREL**: 1 ED Sept. 12 (TLC)

RB, M. Johnson). **WILLET**: 1 ED Oct. 4 (RB) first seen at El Dorado since 1972. Greater Yellowlegs: 2 ED Sept. 14 this bird observed to eat a small frog (RCW); last 1 PP Oct. 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 ED Sept. 14; last 1 PP Oct. 13. Red Knot: 1 ED Sept. 14 & 18. Pectoral Sandpiper: 42 near Dexter Oct. 12; 5 same loc Oct. 25. White-rumped Sandpiper: 6 near Dexter Oct. 12; 3 ED Nov. 6. Baird's Sandpiper: 2 ED Sept. 6 (TLC); 1 WHWMA Sept. 18 (GAS); 1 ED Oct. 13. Least Sandpiper: 4 SLR Sept. 14. Dunlin: 95 max ED Oct. 8; 6 ED Nov. 14. Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 ED Sept. 2 (RCW); 4 ED Sept. 5 (RB); 1 SLR Sept. 15 (TLC). **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: 1 Rome State Rd. Oct. 3-5 (TLC, RCW, Matt Brown); Regional record—hypothetical 9/24-25/66 ED D. Gordon—note to editor. Stilt Sandpiper: 4 WHWMA Sept. 18 (GAS); 1 ED Sept. 25 (TLC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 ED Oct. 30. Sanderling: 30 ED Sept. 2; 8 SP Nov. 2. **RED PHALAROPE**: 1 ED Oct. 28; 1 ED Nov. 14—both (TLC). **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: 1 ED Sept. 2 (RCW).

Glaucous Gull: 1 imm RMPD Nov. 5 (JAV). Iceland Gull: 1 imm RMPD Nov. 12 (JAV). Great Black-backed Gull: 6 ED Sept. 12 (RB); 1 ED Sept. 14; 21 Limerick to Pt. Salubrious Nov. 13 (TLC). Ring-billed Gull: 8 PP Nov. 29. **LAUGHING GULL**: 1 ED Sept. 11 (TLC). **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: 1 imm 2nd yr ED Sept. 25 (TLC) observed flying and standing—note to editor. Bonaparte's Gull: 10 ED Sept. 2; 30 ED Sept. 14; 8 BRB Nov. 6. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: 1 imm PP Oct. 13 (TLC)—new location; 1 imm RMPD Oct. 31 (JAV). **FORSTER'S TERN**: 1 imm SNP Sept. 11 (TLC); note to editor. Common Tern: 12 ED Sept. 2; 10 ED Sept. 14. Caspian Tern: 14 ED Sept. 2; 2 ED Sept. 18.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: increasing again. Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Dry Hill Rd. Sept. 1 (RCW). Great Horned Owl: thru. Snowy Owl: none reported. Short-eared Owl: 1 ED Oct. 3 (TLC). Com. Nighthawk: small migration Rices Rd. Sept. 15 (RB). Chimney Swift: 5 Watertown Nov. 22 (TLC) late-late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last—2 Sept. 12. Belted Kingfisher: 1 ED Oct. 8; 1 ED Nov. 14. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Brownville Oct. 10-15. Hairy Woodpecker: may be down? Downy: in usual numbers.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: Horned Lark: 16 ED Nov. 20; 12 PP Nov. 21. Tree Swallow: 20 Pt. P Oct. 24; last Nov. 27 after several inches of snow; others reported in Nov. Blue Jay: numbers up? Com. Crow: 1000 Bradley St. Rd. Oct. 3. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 ED Sept. 6. Brown Creeper: 2 Brownville Nov. 2. **CAROLINA WREN**: 1 still at Krings Pt Sept. 18 (GAS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 11 Brownville Nov. 2. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Brownville Nov. 2. Water Pipit: 2 ED Sept. 5; 3 ED Oct. 4 both (RB). Cedar Waxwing: 28 Nov. 11; 22 Oct. 3. Northern Shrike: 1 ad SP Oct. 30; 1 imm Sackets Hbr Nov. 10.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Red-eyed Vireo: 2 Brownville Sept. 1. Tennessee Warbler: 3 Brownville Sept. 1; 1 Ransom Rd. Sept. 19; 1 Brownville Sept. 23; 1 Brownville Sept. 24—all (TLC). **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: 1 Barnhart Isl Sept. 18 (GAS). Yellow Warbler: last—3 Sept. 1. Magnolia: last—4 Sept. 24. Yellow-rumped: 111 ED Sept. 12; 92 ED Sept. 18; 31 ED Oct. 8; 1 Brownville Nov. 23. Black-throated Green: last—5 Sept. 24. Blackburnian: last Sept. 19. Chestnut-sided: last—Sept. 1. Bay-breasted: 3 Sept. 1; last Sept. 19. Canada: last—Sept. 12.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: E. Meadowlark: 2 Pt. P Nov. 13. Brown-headed Cowbird: 90 Pt. P Nov. 21. Vesper Sparrow: 3 Pt. P Oct. 24. Dark-eyed Junco: Heavy migration Oct. 10. Tree Sparrow: first—26 Rome State Rd. Nov. 2. Chipping Sparrow: movement Oct. 10. Field Sparrow: 1 SP Oct. 30. White-crowned Sparrow: heavy movement Oct. 10. White-throated Sparrow: heavy movement Oct. 10. **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**: 1 WHWMA (GAS). Swamp Sparrow: 1 ED Oct. 3. Snow Bunting: 6 near Dexter Oct. 25.

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## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

The fall season was colder than normal with snow on the ground for keeps beginning October 10 from Newcomb to Sabattis and soon after at Paul Smiths. The more “tropical” Champlain Valley lucked out until November 30 when they were blessed with six inches of snow. This early cold froze small ponds for the season in October at Paul Smiths and the lakes received the same treatment well before the end of November. Inland waterfowling was very poor as a result.

The prolonged rains of summer raised Lake Champlain enough to cause most shore birds to pass on thru. Phil Warren has promised to personally drain it to a proper level next year, however.

It was a fairly good beechnut year, a good cone crop prevailed, and *Viburnum cassinoides* was loaded with fruit, bringing generous numbers of Ruffed Grouse to the bog edges thru the period. The Champlain Valley had a dearth of finches but there were numerous flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and American Goldfinches in inland sections. A few of the grosbeaks died when seeking gravel from the sanded roads. One dead bird attracts others to linger longer than is safe when a car approaches. It is a kindness to remove dead birds if traffic is safe.

Geoffrey Carleton found the bird of the season for this region with his White-eyed Vireo. This is a new regional record. The previously reported northern subspecies of Great Horned Owl has been retracted because it was not pale enough. Ruddy Duck and Clay-colored Sparrow are good finds too and the several Marsh Hawks seen are encouraging.

Abbreviations: E’town—Elizabethtown; Ind L—Indian Lake; L Cham—Lake Champlain; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; Tup L—Tupper Lake.

Observers: DA—Deborah Anson; BB—Bart Bailey; IB—Isabelle Bailey; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DC—David Cate; CD—Charlcie Delehanty; BE—Beth Edmunds; RH—Robert Hager; TM—Ted Mack; EM—Esther MacCready; RM—Robert McKinney; NM—Norman Mason; KM—Keith Murphy; JPa—John Parke; JP—John M. C. Peterson; DN—Dan Nickerson; JR—Jerry Rosenband; CS—Carole Slatkin; LS—Lester Sweatt; PT—Pat Taber; Gertrude Ten Broeck; PW—Phil Warren.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: many at L. Cham and one lingered to Nov. 8 at Lower St. Regis L at PS after smaller ponds and bays were frozen. Red-necked Grebe: at least 7 sightings L Cham. Horned Grebe: 1 early arrival L Cham Sept. 29 (EM,JP); max 42 Platts Nov. 25 (PW). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 NW Bay L Cham Nov. 10 (KM,PT). Double-crested Cormorant: last 1 Essex Oct. 14 (JPa). Great Blue Heron: 1 by a snowy stream PS Nov. 27 (Cindy Rechlin). American Bittern: 1 Chazy Landing Nov. 6 (PW). Snow Goose: only 2 reported were at Essex Nov. 6 (JPa). Ring-necked Duck: 4 Tup L Oct. 11 and 5 there Oct. 20 (CD) as well as L Cham records. White-winged Scoter: first were 2 females and a male Nov. 25 Platts (PW). Black Scoter: 1 female Platts Nov. 28 (PW). **RUDDY DUCK:** 2 NW Bay L Cham Oct. 20 (EM,JP); 3 same place Nov. 3 (PT). There is one previous Essex Co. record.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Goshawk: 1 Wadhams Oct. 7 (EM,JP); 1 Ind L Oct. 24 (RM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Tup L Sept. 9 (CD); 1 L Placid Nov. 2 (PT); 4 Essex Sept. 19 (DN,JP). Cooper’s Hawk: 1 Essex Oct. 3 (JR,CS). Red-tailed Hawk: max 6 L Cham (DN,JP). Rough-legged Hawk: all over Cham Valley; 1 Ind L Oct. 23 (RM) is noteworthy because inland records are scarce. Bald Eagle: 1 Tup L Sept. 17 (Bill Frenette); 2 Essex Sept. 19 (Geraldine Von Ornam). Marsh Hawk: 6 reported from L Cham to PS. Osprey: 9 reported, mostly L Cham except 2 Tup L Sept. 6 (CD) and 3 Wilmington Nov. 20 (EM,JP). Merlin: This is

not unusual for Cham Valley and was well seen both perched and in flight at Essex Sept. 12 (JP,JR,CS). Virginia Rail: 1 North Meadow Sept. (DN); several calling Essex Station Sept. 12 (JP,JR,CS). Sora: 1 dead Lake Alice Oct. 13 (Hal Klein). Am. Golden Plover: Sept. 4-Oct. 5 L Cham in 3 areas. RUDDY TURNSTONE: 1 North Meadow Sept. 2 (DC, BE, DN). Upland Sandpiper: 1 Essex Sept. 2 (GC). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Essex Station Oct. 2 (JR,CS); 25 L Placid Oct. 9 (DN). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 L Placid dump Sept. 6 (Larry Master). Sanderling: a few L Cham. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 on early date of Sept. 8 Westport (GC). Common Tern: 1 Platts Oct. 10 (PW) rare.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Screech Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 8 (JP,BB). Long-eared Owl: 1 Essex Sept. 10 thru Oct. (JPa). Com. Nighthawk: 1 Wadham Sept. 12 (Atea Ring). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 E'town Sept. 28 (PT); 1 Tup L Sept. 10-28 (CD).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 17-21 (CD). E. Phoebe: 1 Essex Nov. 17 (JP). Least Flycatcher: 1 Tup L Sept. 3; 1 Tup L Sept. 8; both (CD). Tree Swallow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 6 (RH); 1 Platts Nov. 7 (PW). Common Raven: many reports from high peaks area that probably involves at least some repeat sightings of some birds; 1 Wilmington Sept. 20 (BB,IB,JP,GT); 2 St. Regis Mtn. at PS Oct. 24-Nov. 20 (TM); 1 Saranac Inn all Oct. (TM); 1 Ind L Nov. 14 (RM). Mockingbird: 1 Westport Oct. 16 (Atea Ring); 1 Essex Nov. 3 (JP,LS). Gray Catbird: 1 Saranac L Nov. 13 (RH). Am. Robin: 2 Tup L Nov. 21 at feeder (CD); 1 PS Nov. 29. Veery: 1 E'town Sept. 26 and calling (GC) late. E. Bluebird: 38 individuals from Tup L to Platts; 2 late birds Platts Nov. 2 (Holland Pitts). Water Pipit: many from PS to L Cham; max 50 Whallonsburg Oct. 26 (EM,JP). N. Shrike: 1 Westport Nov. 1 (EM,JP).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 E'town Oct. 2-11 (GC). New species for region. Observer knows the species from New York City area. Yellow spectacles, two white wing bars, white throat, dark iris noted. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 E'town Sept. 21 (GC) late. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Ind L Oct. 23 (RM). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 adult male E'town Sept. 6 (GC). Tennessee Warbler: 1 E'town Oct. 8 (GC). Nashville Warbler: 1 Saranac L Oct. 31 (RH). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 PS Nov. 22. Pine Warbler: 1 Tup L Sept. 15 (CD). Common Yellowthroat: 1 Barnum Pd PS Nov. 13; 1 Osgood River PS Nov. 28.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 5 Westport Sept. 4 (GC). Pine Grosbeak: not reported. Red Crossbill: a few E'town Sept. 2 (GC). White-winged Crossbill: 14 Chubb R Sept. 18 (JP). Chipping Sparrow: 3 Saranac L Nov. 20 (RH). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 carefully studied Saranac L Oct. 24-29 (RH). Brown buffy rump, much paler overall than Chipping Sparrow companions, brown cheek patch lined above and below with darker brown, strong whisker marks. Field Sparrow: 2 Ausable Pt. L Cham Nov. 25 (PW). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 E'town Sept. 16 (GC); 6 Tup L Sept. 19 (CD) and many thereafter. Snow Bunting: 100 L Placid Nov. 14 (JP).

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The weather this fall was cold and blustery with a  $-2.9^{\circ}$  F ( $-1.6^{\circ}$  C) departure from normal for September, a  $-4.9^{\circ}$  F ( $2.7^{\circ}$  C) for October and a  $-4.7^{\circ}$  F ( $2.6^{\circ}$  C) for November, breaking records on the 2nd and 12th of November. Precipitation was about normal with only 5.7" (14.5 cm) snowfall for November which fell mostly in traces and soon disappeared.

The season was viewed in different ways—by some as dull and slow, by others with ex-

ciment. As one of our experienced observers stated, "a very dull fall with a duller summer before it. For the first time in the 45 years I have lived on this little dead-end suburban street, I did not see a Baltimore Oriole on it all summer. That may be attributed to the lack of many big old elms, victims of Dutch Elm Disease. I did not sight a single Chimney Swift the entire year, which had never happened before. Here is a list of some of the birds no longer seen . . . which I used to expect: Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Bobolink, Bluebird, Crested Flycatcher, Woodcock, with others growing more scarce every year (MF)." Is this true in other areas? There were either fewer birds or reports and water bird numbers appear down, but there was an increase in hawk reports—no doubt due to better coverage of our Helderberg area.

On the other end of the scale, we had some exciting finds—two "firsts" for our area, an unusual visitor, and an early visitor. The firsts were: a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which was only the fourth location in N.Y. State (Buffalo, Ithaca, and N.Y. City), and a Wheatear. A Western Kingbird which attracted many interested visitors was only the second sighting found in our records (September 17, 1962 at Meadowdale) and an Iceland Gull was seen by many in early November, with December 17 being the earliest previous record.

The usual residents and seasonal visitors appeared to be about the same although fewer reports than usual were received. Blue Jay seemed more numerous during summer and fall at Jenny Lake where there was an exceptionally heavy crop of acorns this year (RPY).

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan DeVoe Bird Club; CC—Columbia County; Coey—Coeymans; Cox—Coxsackie; D-A-B—Dial-A-Bird; EG—East Greenbush; F. Vly—Franklin Vly; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club field trip; HR—Hudson River; JHB—J. H. Bush; JL—Jenny Lake; ls—last reported sighting; MF—Mabel French; NB—New Baltimore; R&C LaF—R. & C. LaForce; RPG—R. P. Guthrie; RPY—R. P. Yunick; S&R—Saratoga & Round Lakes; Steph—Stephentown; Tom Res—Tomhannock Reservoir; VF—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Area; WG—W. Gorman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 3 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Horned Grebe: 3 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly; thru Oct. CC (ADBC); Nov. 17 Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 31 Cox (RPG). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Sept. 26 HR (RPG). Great Blue Heron: 1 Sept. 18 between Mechanicville and Stillwater; 3 Sept. 26 Cox (RPG); 4 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); thru Oct. CC (ADBC); Nov. 4 Catskill (JHB); Green Heron: thru Oct. 22 CC (ADBC). Little Blue Heron: 1 Sept. 18 between Mechanicville and Stillwater (ADBC). Great Egret: 1 Sept. 26 HR (RPG); 1 Sept. 19 between Mechanicville and Stillwater (ADBC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 4 immature Sept. 26 Cox (RPG). Am. Bittern: 5 Sept. 10 CC (ADBC). Canada Goose: Sept. 18 Steph, 52 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 275 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 4 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); thru CC, nested in E. Chatham, flocks up to 200 in Oct. (ADBC); first flock reported (126) Sept. 26 Cox (RPG). Snow Goose: Nov. 7 Burden L. (D-A-B). The reports of the usual ducks were very low; only a few Mallards and Blacks with little concentrations. Pintail: 4 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Green-winged Teal: F. Vly (HMBC). Blue-winged Teal: a few thru Sept. CC (ADBC); 6 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 200 Sept. 24 Coey (RPG). Am. Wigeon: 5 in Oct. HR, CC (ADBC); 2 Sept. 24 Coey (RPG). Wood: 20 Sept. 26 Cox (RPG); 30 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 17 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); Oct. 27, Nov. 2-29 CC (ADBC). Canvasback: 2 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Lesser Scaup: 8 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Bufflehead: 4 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 6 Nov. 24 Ooms Pond CC (ADBC). White-winged Scoter: 1 Oct. 30 HR, NB (RPG). Black Scoter: 3 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 1 Oct. 28 Coey (RPG). Ruddy Duck: 2 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC). Com. Merganser: 2 Oct. 23 Tom Res, 129 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); thru Oct. CC (ADBC). Red-breasted Merganser: Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 7 CC (ADBC).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Sept. 12 Helderbergs (RLaF); 1 Sept. 22 Coey, 1 Sept. 25 Cox, Oct. 30 Ghent (RPG); thru Oct. CC (ADBC). Goshawk: 1 Sept. 18 Steph, 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 3, 4 Oct. 10, 5 Oct. 16, 2 Oct. 30 Helderbergs (RLaF); 1 Oct. 15 W. Powell Sanct. CC (RPG). Sharp-shinned: 1 Sept. 18 Steph, 3 Oct. 23 Tom Res

(HMBC); 1 Sept. 11, 10 Sept. 12, 21 Oct. 3, 5 Oct. 10, 2 Oct. 16, 1 Oct. 30 Helderbergs (RLaF); 3 Oct. 16 W. Powell Sanct (RPG); thru CC (ADBC). Cooper's: numerous reports from Sept. 6 thru Nov. 27 from Catskills and Helderbergs. Red-tailed: thru. Red-shouldered: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 2. Broad-winged: Sept. 16 Steph (HMBC); 152 Sept. 11, 250 Sept. 12 Helderbergs (RLaF); thru Oct. 26 CC (ADBC); and 2 late sightings, 4 Nov. 20 and 6 Nov. 25 Cox (RPG). Rough-legged: 1 VF, 1 Hudson Falls (D-A-B). Bald Eagle: 1 imm week of Nov. 7 near Cherry Plain Rensselaer Co. (D-A-B). Marsh Hawk: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 26. Osprey: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Oct. Ruffed Grouse: daily thru Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Bobwhite: only report, Nov. CC (ADBC). Ring-necked Pheasant: Sept., Oct. CC (ADBC); 1 Oct. 5 EG (WG). Turkey: Nov. 17 Spencertown (ADBC). Virginia Rail: Sept. 27, only sighting in CC this year (ADBC); 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Com. Gallinule: 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Am. Coot: 54 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); up to 13 Oct. 27 and Nov. 17 Ooms Pond (ADBC). Killdeer: a few scattered reports. Am. Woodcock: Sept. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Com. Snipe: Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Very few sandpipers reported: Solitary Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs, only 1 report each in Oct. and Pectoral in Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC); Least: 2 Sept. 22 Coey (RPG). Dunlin: Oct. 31 CC (ADBC). Semipalmated: Oct. 13 CC (ADBC). Gulls: ICELAND: 1 Oct. 13 HR at NB, 2 Nov. 4 Mohawk R. at Cresent (RPG); 2 Nov. 2, 3 Nov. 27 Colonie landfill (K. Able); 2 Nov. 2 Colonie (WG). Great Black-backed: during Nov. Colonie landfill (D-A-B). LESSER BLACK-BACKED: 1 Nov. 2, 6, 12, 14, 16 Colonie landfill many observers. Herring: thru. Ring-billed: 15 Nov. 21 S&R (HMBC); 250 thru Colonie landfill (D-A-B).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC), which appears to be late. Black-billed: Sept. 1-11 CC (ADBC); Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC). Owls: Great Horned: thru Sept. CC (ADBC); 1 Sept. 6 NB (RPG); Nov. 13 Catskill (JHB). Snowy: 1 Oct. 30 SL (D-A-B). Saw-whet: Nov. 20 Catskill (JHB); 1 adult banded in yard (RPG). Com. Nighthawk: several reports with flock of 220 during Sept. S. W. Albany (WS); ls in CC Sept. 16 (ADBC). Chimney Swift: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); ls in CC Oct 5 (ADBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sept. 12 Loudonville (MF); 2 Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); ls in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC). Belted Kingfisher: 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Sept. 18 Athens, 1 Sept. 20 Cox (RPG); 1 Oct. 2 Tom Res (HMBC); 1 Nov. 9 Catskill (JHB); thru CC (ADBC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Sept. 25 Cox (RPG); 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); ls in CC Oct. 9 (ADBC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: thru Oct. CC (ADBC). WESTERN KING-BIRD: 1 Oct. 4-9 Ghent (B. & H. Gardina-ADBC). Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 14 and Least on Sept. 20 Old Chatham (ADBC). E. Phoebe: 6 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG); 1 Oct. 22 Warrensburg (RPG); thru Nov. 5 CC (ADBC). E. Wood Pewee: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); thru Sept. Stephen CC (ADBC). Horned Lark: Oct. and Nov. CC (ADBC). Swallows: Tree: 20 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); ls in CC Oct. 1 (ADBC). Barn: ls in CC Sept. 10 (ADBC). Cliff: ls in CC Sept. 11. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper: a few scattered reports. Wrens: House: Sept.-Oct. 5 CC (ADBC), Sept. 21 Loudonville (MF). Winter: Sept. 18 Stephen (HMBC). Carolina: 4 thru Cox, NB, Coey (RPG). Mockingbird: frequently Sept. 3-Nov. 27 Loudonville (MF); daily thru Catskill (JHB); 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Gray Catbird: thru. ls week of Nov. 15 E. Greenbush (D-A-B). Brown Thrasher: Sept. CC (ADBC). Am. Robin: scattered reports thru Nov. 6 with 100 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC) the only report of concentration. Thrushes: Wood: thru Sept. CC (ADBC). Hermit: Oct. 3 Loudonville (MF); ls in CC Oct. 12 (ADBC); Nov. 4 Catskill (JHB); Nov. 14, late Central Park, Schenectady (D-A-B). Swainson's: ls in CC Oct. 6 (ADBC). Gray-cheeked: 1 netted Oct. 20 Berne (K. Able). Veery: ls in CC Oct. 12 (ADBC). E. Bluebird: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); during Oct. CC (ADBC); 10 Oct. 30 Ghent (RPG). WHEATEAR: 1 Sept. 22 Ravena (RPG&Al Van Zant). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Sept. 8 Old Chatham (ADBC). Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets: several scattered reports thru. Water Pipit: 35 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); 12 Nov. 6 Niskayuna (WG); flock of 2-300 in

Oct. and Nov. 1-6 near Castleton (ADBC). Cedar Waxwing: a few reports thru Nov. 25. N. Shrike: 1 Oct. 31 VF (D-A-B); 1 Nov. 21 Old Chatham (ADBC).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Vireos: Yellow-throated: Sept. 11, 16 Old Chatham (ADBC); Solitary: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), ls in CC Oct. 13 (ADBC); Red-eyed: Sept. 13, 14 Loudonville (MF), Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), ls in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC). Philadelphia: Sept. 16, 17 Old Chatham (ADBC). Warbling Vireo: 1 Sept. 10 EG (WG). Warblers: Black-and-white: Sept. 12, 21 CC (ADBC), Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC), Sept. 13 Loudonville (MF), 1 Oct. 2 EG (WG); Blue-winged: only report, ls in CC Sept. 10 Old Chatham (ADBC); Tennessee: Sept. 2-24 CC (ADBC); 8 Sept. 26 NB (RPG); Nashville: 1 Sept. 10 EG (WG), ls in CC Oct. 3 (ADBC); N. Parula: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC). Yellow: Sept. 1, 12-20 CC (ADBC); Magnolia: Sept. 3, 4, 12, 24 CC (ADBC); Black-throated Blue: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Yellow-rumped: scattered reports Oct. 7 thru Nov. 29; Black-throated Green: scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Oct. 2; Blackburnian: Sept. 7-15 CC (ADBC); Chestnut-sided: only report, ls in CC Sept. 15 (ADBC); Bay-breasted: Sept. 6 Loudonville (MF); Blackpoll: Sept. 11 Loudonville (MF), inter Sept. 10-29 CC (ADBC); Pine: Sept. 15, 25, 29 Ghent (ADBC); Prairie: Sept. 15 CC (ADBC); Palm: 3 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), ls in CC Oct. 7 (ADBC), Nov. 3 Catskill (JHB), Nov. 16 New Scotland (D-A-B). Ovenbird: Sept. 6, 7, 18 CC (ADBC), Sept. 11 Loudonville (MF). N. Waterthrush: only report, ls in CC (ADBC). Com. Yellowthroat: a few scattered reports Sept. 18 thru Nov. 29. Wilson's: Sept. 13 CC (ADBC), 1 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC). Canada: 2 Sept. 9 EG (WG), ls in CC Sept. 10 (ADBC). Am. Redstart: Sept. 11, 15, 16 CC (ADBC), 1 Oct. 2 EG (WG).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: only report, ls in CC Sept. (ADBC). E. Meadowlark: only report, thru CC (ADBC). Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 Oct. 2 F. Vly, 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); at feeder Oct. 31 Schenectady (R&CLaF); thru CC (ADBC). N. Oriole: Sept. 6—a bright male, only one this fall—Loudonville (MF). Rusty Blackbird: 6 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG); 24 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); 1 Oct. 30 Cox (RPG); thru Oct. (ADBC). Com. Grackle: 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC). Brown-headed Cowbird: 55 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); Nov. 6 feeder Schenectady (R&CLaF). Scarlet Tanager: 1 Sept. 9 EG (WG); Sept. 19 Loudonville (MF); ls in CC Oct. 7 (ADBC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Sept. 9 EG (WG); Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); ls in CC Nov. 11 (ADBC). Indigo Bunting: Sept. 27 Ghent (ADBC). Evening Grosbeak: late Nov. CC (ADBC); 1st flock (10-15) Nov. 6 JL and 1 other flock late Nov. in Schenectady—apparently not a flight year—(RPY); nearly absent in Berne, none seen until Nov. 30 (K. Able); 6 Nov. 6 EG (WG). Purple Finch: thru CC (ADBC); banding at JL lowest in 6 years, practically disappeared in Sept. with a few migrants at home feeder in mid Nov. (RPY); flocks passing overhead at Berne Oct. 17 thru (K. Able). Pine Grosbeak: 1 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Com. Redpoll: 200-300 Nov. 6-10 Castleton (ADBC). Pine Siskin: 6 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC). Red Crossbill: only report, one flock (10-15) Nov. 25 JL, scarce (RPY); White-winged: Nov. 20 Catskill (JHB). Rufous-sided Towhee: Sept. 18 Steph (HMBC); Sept., Oct. CC (ADBC). Sparrows: Savannah: Sept. 2, 21, 30 CC (ADBC). Vesper: Oct., Nov. CC (ADBC). Dark-eyed Junco: scattered reports, "goodly numbers . . . at JL in Sept.-52 banded. In late Oct. & early Nov. . . many heavy flights thru yard—banded 102—most ever at this time in 13 years. Much reduced after mid Nov. to normal 6-10" (RPY); Chipping: thru Nov. 15 CC (ADBC), 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC); Field: 4 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), 6 Oct. 9 Ghent (WG), 1 Oct. 29 thru feeder EG—"appears to be wintering as 1 has done for past 2 years" (WG), 5 Oct. 30 CC (RPG), thru Nov. 12 CC (ADBC). White-crowned: 1 Oct. 5, 6 Loudonville (MF), 2 Oct. 2 F. Vly and 2 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC), 5 Oct. 30 CC (RPG), thru CC (ADBC). Fox: Oct. thru Nov. 1 CC (ADBC), Nov. 1 Catskill (JHB). Lincoln's: 10 Oct. 9 (WG) and Nov. 11 (ADBC) Ghent. Swamp: inter Sept. 12-29 CC (ADBC), 50 Oct. 2 F. Vly (HMBC), 1 Oct. 30 CC (RPG). Song: Sept. 18 Steph, 15 Oct. 2 F. Vly and 7 Oct. 23 Tom Res (HMBC); thru CC (ADBC)—appears less common this year. Snow Bunting: only report, during Nov. CC (ADBC).

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## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

September seemed to be about average in temperature and precipitation. Winds were largely from the southeast and would have appeared to be largely unfavorable for any marked hawk flights, but apparently there were enough favorable winds to allow for a big push on the 12th and 21st. The latter date brought a record movement of Broad-wings through Hook Mt. Unfortunately Mt. Peter was not covered that day. Temperatures during October made it the coldest one on record for the past 25 years. November was not much better. Average temperature readings taken daily thru the month at 8 a.m. were in the mid-20° F (ca -4° C). Precipitation was moderate thru the period with no snow of any significance reported.

This report is unusual in that very few accidentals were reported. There was a good movement of waterfowl along the Hudson in Oct., with all species of scoter being reported in good numbers. Sparrow movements were quite noticeable in Dutchess from Oct. 4-7, and a huge blackbird movement occurred there in early Nov. Warblers were heaviest thru the middle two weeks of Sept., and Yellow-rumped were still in good numbers at the end of the period. An unusually strong movement of thrushes reported in the Maritime region was also felt inland.

Region 9 has recently been expanded to include all of Westchester Co. Formerly the lower half, which included the Long Island Sound area, was included in Region 10. We welcome Tom Burke who will be sending us notes from southeastern Westchester, and Berna Weissman who will report from the southwestern portion of that county. We have also received word from Fred Hough that he will no longer be able to send notes from Ulster Co. We wish to thank him for all the hours spent gathering material for this column for more than 20 years.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Ken McDermott, Al Merritt, Lana Mills, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Richard Rogers, Benton Seguin, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; first four or five letters of each county.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: good numbers thru period; strong movement noted in coastal West; max inland, 4 Ashokan Res. Nov. 6. Red-throated Loon: 1 CB Oct. 31, 1 PL Oct. 27. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** 1 Ashokan Res. Nov. 6. Horned Grebe: 1 early at Croton Pt. Sept. 28. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 CB Sept. 12; decreasing numbers thru Oct. on L.I. Sound; 120 flying south over PL Oct. 24. Common Egret: better than usual in early Sept.; 1 CB Sept. 29, 2 Croton Pt. thru Oct. 5. Snowy Egret: 1 Wappingers L. Oct. 4, late. Black-crowned Night Heron: 2 imm Kingston Pt. Sept. 26 (Frank Murphy). Least Bittern: 1 Kingston Pt. Sept. 26 (FM). Am. Bittern: 1 Verbank Nov. 13. **GLOSSY IBIS:** 1 MC Oct. 23. Mute Swan: continues to spread; 13 at Iona Is. Nov. 14. Canada Goose: very large movement 1st week of Oct.; 25 still on Ashokan, Nov. 21. Brant: 850 over Cornwall Oct. 24; more than 3000 over PL on Oct. 24; 50 Freedom Plains Oct. 27. Snow Goose: 4 CB Sept. 28. Mallard and Black Duck: more than 100 of each species at Rondout Res. Nov. 28 (VF). Gadwall: rare at any time; 3 Millbrook Nov. 4-6; 2 there Nov. 13. Pintail: 1 near Goshen Sept. 26. Blue-winged Teal: 15 Kingston Pt. Sept. 26. Am. Wigeon: 13 Iona Is. Nov. 6 inc. to 15 by Nov. 26. Wood Duck: 14 E. Dutch Nov. 11. Redhead: an unusual concentration of 30 at Millerton Nov. 4. Reduced to 1 by Nov. 27. Canvasback: good concentrations along the Hudson; 148 at Iona Is. Nov. 27; more than 300 CB Nov. 28. Scaup sp: 30 CB Oct. 24. Common Goldeneye: 4 females and 1 male on Ashokan Nov. 6. Oldsquaw: 40 Ashokan Nov. 6. White-winged Scoter: sev along coast at PL from Oct. 17; 2 on PL Lake

Oct. 11 were unusual there; 250 on Hudson at Tivoli Oct. 18. Surf Scoter: 80 Tivoli Oct. 18; 1 PL Lake last half of Oct. Black Scoter: 60 CB Oct. 18 2 there Oct. 30; 50 Ashokan Oct. 18. Hooded Merganser: c. 60 Ashokan Nov. 6. Common Merganser: inc well in Nov. Max 34 Rondout Res. Nov. 28.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** The two local Hawk Watches received at the time of this writing are as follows:

	Hook Mt., Nyack, 362 hrs (LM)	Mt. Peter, Warwick, 187 hrs (RR)
Goshawk	19 max 3, 9/24, 10/11	5 max 3, 10/17
Sharp-shinned	3,659 378, 9/25	631 68, 9/23
Cooper's	27 5, 10/6	13 3, 9/20, 10/17
Rough-legged	1 1, 10/19	2 2, 10/22
Red-tailed	165 34, 10/28	79 17, 10/22 & 23
Red-shouldered	61 17, 10/12	21 6, 10/16
Broad-winged	14,811 4,730, 9/22	4,197 1,753, 9/12
Golden Eagle	2 1, 10/17 & 19	
Bald Eagle	3 1, 9/6, 10/10 & 23	
Marsh Hawk	174 15, 9/9	37 5, 9/20
Osprey	290 37, 9/22	102 18, 9/19
Peregrine	4 1, 10/5, 11, 13 & 17	2 1, 9/18 & 20
Merlin	7 2, 10/10	2 1, 10/10 & 16
Am. Kestrel	504 92, 9/19	370 72, 9/19
Unident.	148	81
Total	19,875	5,542

**Turkey Vulture:** 1 unusual report of a bird colliding with auto when attempting to reach a dead rabbit at roadside in Dutch (Helen Manson). **Goshawk:** in addition to the usual high flying migrants, 1 imm at Rye Nature Center Oct. 14; 1 Stissing Nov. 18; eating a grouse. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 appears to be resident near the W. Nyack Dump. **Broad-winged Hawk:** 1,832 over Wawarsing Sept. 12 and more than 2,000 there on Sept. 21 (JCO). **Rough-legged Hawk:** almost unreported on counts, 1 dark phase near Galeville Airport Nov. 14; 1 Wawarsing Oct. 22, 27; 1 quite early Sept. 29 Pawling. **Golden Eagle:** 1 Sept. 18 Dutchess Hill. **Bald Eagle:** winter birds returned to Rondout-Rio area of Sullivan by Nov. 28; 1 imm at Bear Mt. Park Sept. 24; 1 imm Dobbs Ferry Sept. 7 & 25; 1 imm Bedford Oct. 30. **Marsh Hawk:** arr Galeville Airport Oct. 31; inc. to 3 by Nov. 20. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** only 1 other than hawk watches; Oct. 13 in Dutch. **Merlin:** more than usual, 1 Wawarsing Oct. 27 carrying a small bird, another same place Nov. 15; 2 in Dutch Oct. 23. **Turkey:** 1 Sept. bird in Dutch, but 26 there near Stissing Nov. 25. **Clapper Rail:** 15 in the vicinity of MC thru period. **Am. Coot:** max 37 near Goshen Oct. 31. **Semipalmed Plover:** 2 continue at PL thru Oct. 15; 3 at CB Sept. 16. **Am. Golden Plover:** 49 at Pine Island Sod Farm Sept. 4. **Black-bellied Plover:** 1 CB Oct. 14 was late for that area; 1 Sept. 19-23 at Oakwood School, P'kpsie. **Spotted Sandpiper:** 1 late date of Nov. 3 at Staatsburg. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2, late date of Nov. 6 at Croton Pt. (KM). **Dunlin:** 10 Washington L. Newburgh Oct. 24; inc. to 20 Oct. 25; 20 at MC regularly thru Oct. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** 1 Piermont Pier Oct. 27, the 5th record for Rock, and the first outside Palisades Interstate Park (BW). **Laughing Gull:** last in CB Oct. 14, and at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 16. **Bonaparte's Gull:** first at PL Oct. 27. **Common Tern:** 4 CB Sept. 5 (KM).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** **Barn Owl:** 1 Croton Pt. Nov. 26. **Long-eared Owl:** 2 at Garrison, Putn last week of Nov.; 1 thru Sept. at Salt Point. **Common Nighthawk:** last in Oran Sept. 5; 1 in Dutch late date of Oct. 4. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last observed in Wawarsing Sept. 18; in Dutch Sept. 27. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1 fem Thompson Ridge Oct. 31; usual reports from Dutch. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 imm at L Welch Dam Nov. 30. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Cornwall Oct. 31.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 New Paltz Oct. 19 (Bob Larsen). Eastern Phoebe: last at Wawarsing Nov. 6 and on the Vassar Campus Nov. 24. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 reports from Dutch Sept. 1-12. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3 times at Wawarsing Sept. 9-18; 6 in Dutch in Sept; last there Sept. 29. Tree Swallow: last at Wawarsing 2 on Nov. 8. Purple Martin: last 3, Sept. 25 at Dutchess Hill, quite late. Fish Crow: 1 CB Nov. 11; 4 Croton Pt. Nov. 6; 1 Wappingers Falls in a new area dur Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few; an unusual conc of 12 at Ashokan Res. Nov. 6. Winter Wren: 2 CB Nov. 28 and 1 Wawarsing Oct. 13. Short-billed Marsh Wren: Oran first reported bird of last summer continued near Goshen thru Sept. 6 near Goshen (BS). Gray Catbird: last 2 Cornwall Nov. 24. Wood Thrush: last in Oran Sept. 26 and in Dutch Oct. 21. Hermit Thrush: good from mid-Oct. thru period. Swainson's Thrush: 1 Cornwall Nov. 2; the banding of 62 at Ellenville was the most in seven years (VF). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Sept. 16 near Cornwall. Golden-crowned Kinglet: more than usual. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 57 banded at Ellenville surpassed seven previous years. Water Pipit: good in Dutch in Oct. 30 at PL Oct. 24, 58 at MC Oct. 30. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers thru first week of Nov. Northern Shrike: 1 Wawarsing Nov. 21. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Montgomery Nov. 27; 1 Galeville Airport Oct. 31.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: 1 Weyant's Pd. U.S.M.A. Sept. 6; 2 banded at Ellenville on Sept. 22 and 24 were the first ever (VF). Solitary Vireo: more than usual; a few were regularly seen in E West thru late Oct. 1 at Hastings-on-Hudson Nov. 7. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Weyant's Pd. U.S.M.A. Sept. 6, and 3 Bashakill Sept. 12 (ET); 1 near Cornwall Sept. 13; 3 in Dutch, the last on Sept. 16. Black-and-white Warbler: last Oct. 31 Wappingers Falls. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Bashakill Sept. 18, 1 Rye Oct. 16; 1 Pawling Sept. 29. Nashville Warbler: 1 very late at Wawarsing Nov. 5 (JO). Yellow Warbler: 1 at MC late date of Oct. 13. Magnolia Warbler: 1 MC Oct. 24. Cape May Warbler: about 25 obs on Mt. Peter Hawk Watch Sept. 11 (ET). 10 Wawarsing Sept. 7. Last there Sept. 21. Yellow-rumped Warbler: excellent numbers thru period; many still present at end. Blackburnian Warbler: a beautiful male at Cornwall Nov. 6 (AM). Prairie Warbler: 1 fem at Newburgh Nov. 17 (BS). Palm Warbler: at Wawarsing from Sept. 14-Nov. 5; 1 Iona Is. Nov. 6. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 Bashakill Sept. 3 (BS). Connecticut Warbler: 1 Bashakill Sept. 18, another Wawarsing Sept. 16. Mourning Warbler: 1 Cornwall Sept. 28; 1 Pond Gut, Dutch Sept. 8 and another Pleasant Valley Sept. 18-19. Com. Yellowthroat: 1 Cornwall Nov. 12. Am. Redstart: 1 fem Cornwall Oct. 28 (AM).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: 1 Dobbs Ferry Oct. 25, late. 1 MC Oct. 16. Red-winged Blackbird: more than 50,000 at North Bay, Cruger's I. Oct. 17. Northern Oriole: 1 male in spring plumage Nov. 15 at Red Oaks Mill. Brown-headed Cowbird: many, more than 1000 at Thompson Pd. Dutch Oct. 6. Scarlet Tanager: 3 in Dutch dur Oct., last Oct. 25, late. Cardinal: fledglings being fed at Pleasant Valley, Dutch in early Oct., and at Monticello in mid-Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 fem at Cornwall Oct. 28, and another at Croton Pt. Nov. 6. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** 1 at Piermont in Sept. (Anthony Amos). **DICK-CISSEL:** 1 P'kpsie Oct. 20. Evening Grosbeak: late and scarce, a few at feeders at end of period. **RED CROSSBILL:** 2 Cornwall Nov. 17 (BS). Savannah Sparrow: max 15 at Dobbs Ferry waterfront Nov. 20. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Dobbs Ferry Oct. 4. Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Rye Oct. 17. Seaside Sparrow: at least 2 at MC in late Oct. **LARK SPARROW:** 1 at Piermont in Sept. (Anthony Amos). Chipping Sparrow: 1 Nov. 14-15 near Pleasant Valley, very late (F&A Romero). White-crowned Sparrow: many in Dutch Oct. 4-7. White-throated Sparrow: arr late but in good numbers by end of period. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual; 1 Bashakill Sept. 12, 1 Wawarsing Sept. 15-Oct. 16, 3 there on Sept. 18 (JO), 1 Dobbs Ferry Oct. 25. 4 in Dutch dur Sept., and 3 at Beaver Dam Dutch Oct. 2; 3 Oct. 4 near Amenia. Snow Bunting: many reports, but numbers few; earliest at Piermont Oct. 27; max 37 Ashokan Nov. 6; all but 1 or 2 reports were in Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

The fall season was pleasingly characterized by good to heavy numbers of common migrants and several outstanding rarities. The average temperatures were: Sept. 66.6° F (19.2° C), Oct. 52.9° F (11.6° C), Nov. 41.6° F (5.3° C). The average rainfall in inches was 3.15 (8.0 cm) for Sept., 5.31 (13.5 cm) for October and 0.32 (.81 cm) for November. November, although quite dry, was abnormally cold with a freeze occurring for the first time around the 15th.

Observers were in unanimous agreement about the incredible numbers of Hermit Thrushes migrating into the area in late October and into November. Repeated mention was made of this species' proclivities toward self-destruction against glass windows. One notable example of this slaughter was observed at the Jones Beach Restaurant on Oct. 24, where up to 12 birds were found dead due to impact with the large window walls of the facility. Herring Gulls would sit up on the roof of the restaurant and swoop down to devour the dead or stunned migrants. Interestingly, despite this superabundance of Hermits, Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries were present in normal numbers and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Wood Thrushes were scarce.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers were also present in abundance and enormous flocks of fringillids mixed in with Yellow-rumped Warblers and Hermits were observed feeding on the grass on the sides of the Ocean Parkway from Captree to West End on the Jones Beach strip from mid to late October. These birds would rise in a curtain from the ground to the adjacent shrubbery when a car approached, only to return to feeding upon passage of the vehicle. If one were to assume that there was one bird present to each linear foot along *each* side of the ten-mile strip from West End to Captree, this could be extended to a possible count of over 100,000 birds at the peak of migration on October 24. Whatever the correct ratio actually is, of course, is open to conjecture, but there sure were a heap of birds around. Road kills of these migrants were extremely high. This editor is compiling a list of birds killed on the barrier beach highway over a one year period which will be itemized when complete.

Mention should also be made of the very large numbers of Cape May Warblers present in September.

Visions of avian sugar plums lingering until Christmas Count time were dispelled with the onset of unusually cold November winds which cleared out this mass of birds.

Encouraging numbers of Ospreys were noted with over 60 birds reported. Twenty-seven Peregrine Falcons were counted along with the ominous report that one falcon was wearing falconer's jesses. Clever bird!

The Hawk Migration Association of North America observation station at Great South Beach, Fire Island, reported 520 raptors for the fall season, down from 1097 in 1975, although the 1975 total included a one-day high of 563 birds and no such single one day high occurred in 1976. Observation hours were about the same as 1975 and 36 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 7 Cooper's Hawks, 23 Marsh Hawks, 15 Ospreys, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 29 Merlin and 408 Am. Kestrels were noted in 16 count days between Sept. 11 and Oct. 27. Anyone interested in participating in the Fall, 1977, count should contact Mr. William L. Graves, 26 Livingston Road, Bellport, N.Y. 11713, (516) 286-0497.

Winter finches were so scarce during the period as to be nonexistent.

Rarities were: Spotted Redshank, Franklin's Gull, Sabine's Gull, Skua, Gray Kingbird,

Wheatear, Townsend's Warbler and Brewer's Blackbird; their geographical origins neatly box the compass.

Observers: JA—Jim Ash; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; JC—Joe Costa; THD—Thomas H. Davis; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; DP—Dennis Puleston; GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor; RWS—Robert W. Smart; BS—Barbara Spencer. Abbreviations: JBSP—Jones Beach State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** A weakened Northern Fulmar was found wandering in the driveway of DP on Oct. 12; see report elsewhere in this issue. AJL had a bargain basement priced pelagic trip on October 31 from Democrat Point, Fire Island, when at the end of a heavy rain storm with prevailing southerly winds a minimum of 410 Gannets, 1 Manx Shearwater, 4 Greater Shearwaters, 6 Cory's Shearwaters, 4 unidentified Shearwaters, 14 Parasitic Jaegers, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 300 Laughing Gulls and 1 Black-legged Kittiwake flew by in a westerly direction. THD and RWS found a third latest date Louisiana Heron on Nov. 28, Montauk. Single drake European Wigeons were noted at Montauk, Easthampton, Mecox and JBWR.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A few Goshawks were found in late Nov. and 2 Cooper's Hawks in late Sept. on the Jones Beach strip. An adult Golden Eagle was found along the Meadowbrook Parkway on Nov. 9 where it lingered until the 11th and was seen Nov. 11 PM at Lawrence Marsh (C. Ward, JA,JC). DP noted an imm. Bald Eagle along the Carmans River on Oct. 29. The Sagaponack potato fields counts of Am. Golden Plover were 200 Sept. 5 (JA *et al.*), 150 Sept. 11-12 (mob), 75 Sept. 19 (G. Tudor). Whimbrels were in good numbers with 30 counted on Sept. 11 at Sagaponack (JA) and 5 at Fire Island on Sept. 15 (AJL, *et al.*). A winter-plumaged SPOTTED REDSHANK was described in great detail by Helene Tetrault when found on Oct. 4 at JBWR. Five Baird's Sandpipers were present Sept. 11-12 at Mecox Bay (mob). A faded adult Curlew Sandpiper played hide-and-go-seek from Aug. 20 to Sept. 3 at JBWR (N. Wagerik, JA, THD *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found scattered along the south shore of Long Island: 1 on Sept. 4, Wantagh (J. Yrizarry); 1 Sept. 11 Easthampton (AJL); 3-6 Sept. 5 to Sept. 19 Sagaponack (mob); 2 Sept. 14-15 JBSP (L. Schore, W. Baumann *et al.*). Western Sandpipers were scarce this fall with the exception of a flock of 200 seen on North Line Island (J. Yrizarry). Marbled Godwits were also scarce with only 2 at North Line I. and 2 at JBWR reported. Steve Dempsey found a black Ruff in the sewage beds at Pilgrim State Hospital on Sept. 3. and another was present at JBWR Oct. 11-17 (mob). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were present at JBWR to Oct. 17 (mob). JBSP Sept. 20 (mob) and 4 were seen at Pilgrim State Hospital on Sept. 4 (THD, TWB). Four Northern Phalaropes were seen by many Sept. 3-6 at JBWR; 1 at JBSP Sept. 6 (C. Ward); 1 also JBSP Sept. 16 (A. Wollin). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull lingered through the end of the period at Hempstead Harbor after being found by Barbara Spencer. Up to three adult Black-headed Gulls were present throughout the fall season at JBSP. Following Hurricane Belle from 5000 to 10,000 Laughing Gulls were present in the area, but the cold November weather drove their numbers down virtually to zero by the end of the fall season. **FRANKLIN'S GULLS** were found by P. Buckley and W. Sedwitz at Floyd Bennett Field on Sept. 19 and by AJL at JBSP on Oct. 31. Both were winter adults and the first bird was photographed. This was the best season in years for observing Black-legged Kittiwakes from shore; at least ten birds were reported from vantage points on western Long Island. Forster's Terns lingered until November 7 at West End JBSP where up to seven were counted. Only 1 Caspian Tern was noted: Sept. 11, Moriches by GSR who also reported the year's high of 18 Royal Terns at Moriches on Sept. 19.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird whose "long" bill caused it to become a target for collectors in search of exotica hopefully survived its stay from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7 at Riis Park. Nine Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from the region this fall.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** A field trip to Tobay Sanctuary on Sept. 11 led by John Bull led to the discovery of a Gray Kingbird by S. Quinn; it stayed until the 12th. Five Western Kingbirds were seen: Sept. 19 JBWR (P. Buckley, W. Sedwitz); Oct. 1 Watermill (C. McKeever); Oct. 17 JBWR (A&F Bisk); Oct. 17 Riis Park (J. Yrizarry); Nov. 7 Nyack (W. Wilkens). JC found a Boreal Chickadee at Montauk Point on Nov. 14 which is all the more interesting in that this year no notable chickadee flights were reported. At least 200 birders saw a Wheatear that lingered in a traffic cloverleaf from Sept. 23 to Sept. 28 at Captree State Park (AJL). BS reported a flight of up to 200 Water Pipits on October 24 at Mecox and GSR reported 75 on Oct. 31 at Eastport. Loggerhead Shrikes appeared scarce this fall since only 3 were reported: Aug. 29 RMSP (AJL); Sept. 4 Tobay (AJL); Sept. 19 Riis Park (JA,JC).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Golden-winged Warblers, which are early migrants to the tropics, were found much later this year than normally expected: 1 Aug. 31 Central Park (*fide* S. Elliott), 1 Sept. 6 JBWR (D. Brandt), and a bird was banded on Sept. 21 at Brookhaven by DP who noted that the bird was "a most unusual occurrence in this part of Long Island." Roger Pasquier found the rare "Lawrence's" Warbler on Sept. 9 in Central Park and certainly the warbler of the year was found near the horse pasture at Montauk when JA located a male **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** on October 2. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen on Sept. 13 by W. Baumann at JBWR and an unusual barrier beach warbler was found at JBSP when A. Wollin noted a Hooded Warbler.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** The horse farm pasture at Montauk was also the site of the discovery of a female **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** on Oct. 23 by K. Kaufman, E. Cook and a male was seen on Nov. 21 by A. Keith at the same site. J. Gee & J. Wall gave detailed description of a Western Tanager at Riis Park on Oct. 30. Blue Grosbeaks are now regularly found each fall at the Montauk Town Dump where at least three birds were seen by many Sept. 12 to Oct. 23; DP banded one in Brookhaven on Sept. 15 and A. Dignan had one at Tobay Sept. 25. Ten Lark Sparrows were reported from the south shore of Long Island during the period. Riis Park again turned up Henslow's Sparrows when JA, TWB, *et al.* found one on Oct. 23 and H. Tetrault, J. Bull *et al.* turned up another on Oct. 30. THD, D. Salisbury *et al.* had a Clay-colored Sparrow on Sept. 26 at Montauk, and Al Wollin and Sy Schiff found another at JBSP on Oct. 28. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were on Oct. 28 at JBSP (A. Wollin) and the only Lapland Longspurs were 2 seen on Nov. 17 at Calverton (GSR).

#### PELAGIC TRIP REPORTS

Sept. 11. Cox's Ledge (THD *et al.*): 24 Greater, 10 Cory's, 19 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 1 imm. **SABINE'S GULL**.

Sept. 19. South of Block I. (R. Radis): 4 Greater, 18 Cory's, 2 unid. shearwaters, 1 Red Phalarope, 4 unid. phalaropes.

Sept. 25. Cox's Ledge (THD, D. Salisbury, P. Benham, *et al.*): 1 Greater, 13 Cory's, 4 unid. shearwaters, 4 unid. phalaropes, 2 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 imm. **SABINE'S GULL**.

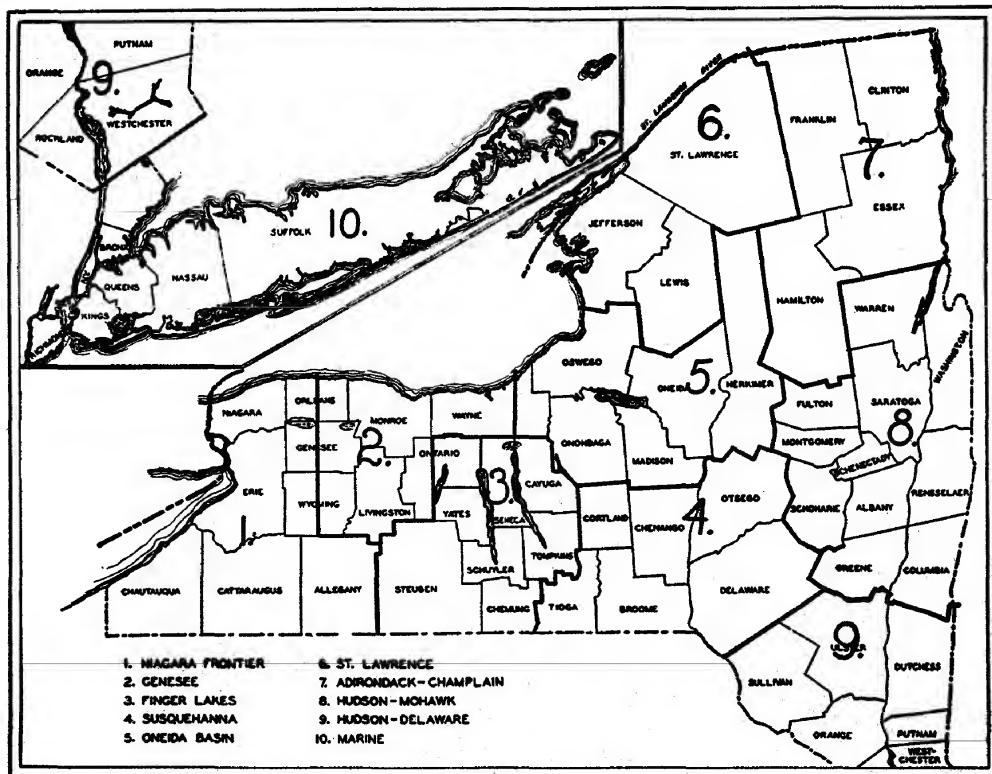
Oct. 23. Cox's Ledge (B. Dietrich, S. Emmons): 1 Northern Fulmar, 125 Greater, 18 Cory's Shearwaters, 9 Gannets, 1 SKUA, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 2 unid. jaegers, 10 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Nov. 27. 20 miles south of Montauk Point (THD, BS, RWS, *et al.*): 150 Gannets, 1 SKUA, 250 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 2 Razorbills, 2 Dovekies, 1 **COMMON PUFFIN**.

9 DeSoto Road, Amityville, N.Y. 11701

Barbara Spencer finds herself unable to continue as co-editor for Region 10. We wish to thank her for her work over the past two years, and hope that she will continue to give these notes as much input as possible.

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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